Hafa Adai!

Judiciary seeks $15.24M budget for fiscal year '23. PAGE 2
Grijalva, Porter push resumption of Compact negotiations. PAGE 5

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'Botched surgery led to 2-week coma'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman is suing a Commonwealth Healthcare Center physician for malpractice after a surgery allegedly that went wrong put her in a two-week coma. She is also suing CHCC for allegedly negligently hiring the physician, saying the corporation failed to do a proper background check.

Arayanee Ann Sablan Maratita filed the civil lawsuit in Superior Court against CHCC and CHCC's Dr. Mark A. Hiesterman after an infection due to bile duct leakage following a gall bladder removal operation allegedly put her in a coma.

Maratita, through her lawyer, Michael Dotts, alleges that if CHCC had conducted a proper background check, it would've learned of multiple "driving under the influence" cases involving Hiesterman, indicating a possible alcohol addiction and inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety. The lawsuit alleges that Hiester-

See BOTCHED on Page 4

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH LEIGH GASES

The booth representing Yap is festooned with young coconut leaves woven into different fantastical shapes during yesterday's celebration of International Women's Month at the CNMI Museum. In keeping with the international theme of the event, there were also booths representing the Philippines, China, Korea, Palau, the Carolinian culture, Yap, Pohnpei, Fiji and Polynesian culture, as well as several vendor booths, awareness groups, government agencies and non-government groups.

Man is facing charges in sexual assault of 2 sisters

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A report of a disturbance at a home in Oleai last Tuesday resulted in a man being arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting two sisters.

Edwin P. Sablan, 40, faces charges of sexual assault in in the first degree, attempted sexual assault in the first degree, incest, and disturbing the peace.

Last Wednesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a $100,000 cash bail on Sablan before re-

See MAN on Page 4

COVID UPDATE

34 new cases; 7 hospitalized

Thirty-four additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 10,985 cases since March 28, 2020.

Of the 34 cases identified on March 22, 2022, two were identified on Tinian and six on Rota. The vaccination statuses of the 34 cases are pending verification.

As of March 23, 2022, there were seven individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19.

Of the 10,985 total cases that have been identified in the CNMI, there have already been 10,811 recover-

See 34 on Page 4

DFEMS chief Mendiola steps down

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis Mendiola has stepped down from his post as fire chief to head the CNMI Department of Homeland Security effective April.

Mendiola

Mendiola said in an interview that it was a personal choice for him to become the special assistant for Department of Homeland Security.

"It was a choice. It was my

See DFEMS on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:56pm, March 24, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Additional Dose Vaccinated:	59.4%
Days since last community transmission	2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	38,149
Fully Vaccinated:	37,360
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,346
Fully Vaccinated:	5,207
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,149
Additional Dose:	22,159

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	46,942	67	47,009
Recovered	45,303	53	45,356
Active	1,249	67	1,313
Deaths	340	0	340

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	10,951	34	10,985
Recovered	10,598	213	10,811
Active	109	34	143
Deaths	31	0	31

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

LOCAL
Sixteen employees of the Community Guidance Center complete life support training.
Page 17

OFF THE WALL
A Northern California man who admitted to taking two bear cubs from their den.
Page 18

LIFE & STYLE
With Rick Astley, it took just his first song, "Never Gonna Give You Up," to hit the big time.
Page 19

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

JOURNEY OF STRENGTH

STORIES FROM CANCER SURVIVORS

JAELEEN ALDAN
Hodgkin's Lymphoma Survivor

My cancer journey started in 2020 when I noticed a lump on my neck. I was referred to the CHCC Northern Marianas Oncology Center by my primary doctor and went through a biopsy. Once the diagnosis was confirmed that it was cancer, I was shocked. Prior to treatment, I felt scared of the process I was about to go through because it was all new and fast paced, but I did my best to remain positive.

Post treatment, I began to regain my energy and strength. Emotionally, I felt relieved that I had faced a very difficult situation. Now, to maintain my health, I continue to do outdoor activities such as swimming, daily walks, hiking, and several sports. At first, it took some time for my body to adjust, considering that my energy and strength was slowly coming back. But with time and consistency, I eventually adjusted well.

To those battling cancer, do not give up! Stay positive and don't waste your energy on negative thoughts. The amount of time we have in life is unknown, so cherish every moment of your life.

If you are a cancer survivor and would like to share your cancer journey, please contact the CHCC Non-Communicable Disease Bureau at (670) 236-8719.

"This project was supported by Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The contents are solely the responsibility of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC."

www.chcc.gov.mp @cnmipophealth @cnmichcc

Local

Judiciary seeks $15.24M budget for fiscal year '23

» Construction of new Tinian Courthouse in FY 2023

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary has requested a budget of $15.24 million for fiscal year 2023 in anticipation of a rise in demand for judicial services as the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic changes and precautionary measures are rolled back.

Castro

Naraja

In order to meet this demand, Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja asked for help in retaining all current Judiciary personnel, granting all requested new number of positions, and approving a 10% pay increase across-the-board for employee retention.

Using American Rescue Plan Act funding, the Judiciary has been able to employ 24 employees on Saipan, three on Tinian, and two on Rota.

"This is an extraordinary achievement in light of the expiration of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program," Castro and Naraja told Senate Presi-

See JUDICIARY on Page 3

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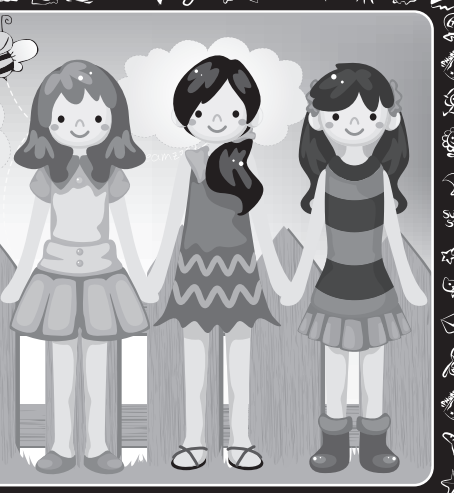

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JUDICIARY

From Page 2

dent Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) in the Judiciary's budget request recently submitted to the Legislature.

They said normalcy has been severely disrupted by the pandemic, affecting staff, their daily operations, their ability to deliver services, and day-to-day living.

Amidst these difficulties, Castro and Naraja said, the Judiciary has evolved, adapted, and explored effective ways to provide access to justice. Using ARPA funding, the court implemented new technology in every courtroom and division, allowing judges to hold virtual hearings and staff to work remotely.

Castro and Naraja said they also enhanced surveillance, retrofitted facilities for safety, provided for sanitization of facilities, and equipped alternate sites. They said the pandemic has been a disruption, but it has also driven innovation to create efficient practices and expand services.

The Judiciary established the Mental Health Court docket, bringing together criminal justice agencies and mental health professionals to identify and treat participants with serious mental illness.

Castro and Naraja said participants have been successfully admitted to the program despite initial struggles of setting up the docket from the ground up, and the court continues to research and prepare to open specialty dockets.

"This new expansion of services and innovation will continue post-pandemic and were made possible through the hard work and dedicated employees within the court system," they said.

The two Judiciary officials said that, had they not received federal assistance, staffing would have been cut, on top of reduced hours for the remaining staff, and the Tinian and Rota courthouses were on the brink of shutdown.

Instead, Castro and Naraja said they were able to bring back furloughed employees, keeping the courthouses open on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and provide competitive salaries, thereby investing in good and dedicated employees.

See JUDICIARY on Page 4

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MAN

From Page 1

manding him back to Department of Corrections custody.

The judge ordered Sablan to return to court on March 30 at 10am for a preliminary hearing. Sablan will be arraigned on April 4 at 9am.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety officers had responded to a disturbance at a residence in Oleai last Friday and it was during this disturbing the peace complaint when police officers reportedly obtained information about Sablan's alleged sexual assault crimes against household members that had allegedly been happening since 2021.

Responding police officers who met with the female caller described her as shaking and crying and she appeared to have mud on her feet and legs. Officers noted they also saw another female standing at the corner of the property and a man inside the residence holding a broom, later identified as Sablan.

Meanwhile, another female walked out of the property and informed officers that she was weak and dizzy because she and her mother had not eaten for two days.

The caller told police that she and Sablan had an argument that took place two days earlier. Sablan allegedly told her to leave the house so she and one of her daughters did and stayed with family in Susupe. However, when they returned to get their belongings on March 18, Sablan refused to let them enter the house and told them to sleep outside, which prompted her to start throwing plates outside the house.

She said she wants Sablan arrested because he allegedly beats her often. She noted that Sablan has been beating her for years but she only reported it last Friday because he was starting to beat her children.

The caller then told police that Sablan was not only angry with her because of their argument, but because she also witnessed him sexually assaulting her children a few months before. When police asked why she had not reported it sooner, the caller said she was scared to report it because Sablan might hurt her.

She said she first witnessed Sablan allegedly trying to have intercourse with her oldest daughter about four months ago in November 2021. She said she had woken up and went to check on her children in the room they share and that's when she allegedly saw Sablan, who stopped what he was doing upon seeing her. Sablan reportedly ran after her to apologize.

The second incident she reportedly witnessed was in January 2022 with her other daughter. She told police that she had woken up and was walking out of her room at around 11pm to 12am when she allegedly saw Sablan with her other daughter. She said when Sablan saw her again, he ran after her to apologize.

After interviewing the caller, police interviewed the younger female, who stated that from February to December 2021, Sablan would hurt her by slapping her, punching her, and pulling her hair. However, in January, the girl said Sablan stopped hurting her and that was when the sexual assault allegedly started. Sablan allegedly sexually assaulted her twice before her mother caught them. The girl said that prior to the sexual assault, Sablan would touch her arms and put his hand on her legs, making her feel uncomfortable.

Police also interviewed the older daughter.

DFEMS

From Page 1

choice to step down as the commissioner and move over to Homeland Security and be the special assistant," he said.

Although there is no permanent replacement yet, assistant fire chief Jesse Mesa will serve as interim DFEMS commissioner.

After over two years as DFEMS chief, Mendiola said he feels he has accomplished the mission he set out to do with DFEMS and he is ready to leave knowing they are more than ready to continue to carry out the DFEMS mission on their own.

"It's an opportunity for me to grow. I think we've reached our milestone at DFEMS. I mean, there's still a lot of issues that we've got to tackle, but for the most part, the department's poised to carry out the mission. So, I saw Homeland Security as an opportunity to grow and it's where I'm needed now," he said.

During his tenure at DFEMS, Mendiola said he is proud that he was able to accomplish one of his main goals with the department, which is to give it structure.

"When I came on board, we faced challenges. During all of this, my mission was to kind of separate the department [and] create structure, which involves divisions. We were able to create a structure for the department, reorganize the entire department like separating administration from operation. Now we have an administration building, and then operation is more of just emergency services. The main intent there is really to not infringe on our emergency services. Separating administration from operation can give operation or emergency services the leeway to carry out the mission without any impediment," he said.

Another accomplishment Mendiola is proud of is that DFEMS was able to acquire over 200 PPEs, which the department has been in dire need of it.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis Mendiola, center, steps down as fire chief after nearly three years of heading the department.

"We had old bunker gear that ranges from 10 years to 15 years, or maybe even more. I think one of the missions was to try and purchase more for the entire fire department," he said.

Aside from PPEs, Mendiola said DFEMS was also able to renovate all its fire stations under his care, procure water rescue apparatuses, and even get new vehicles.

"There's been a lot of success in this department. I think one of the biggest reasons we've been very successful is because we encourage leadership. We train and groom a lot of leaders in this department to try and become self-sustaining, self-sufficient. This department used to be under DPS and there were a lot of challenges. But now that we've became a department, we focused on protocols, policies within the department, making the department stand on its own," he said.

Mendiola said he wouldn't have been able to accomplish what he had without the receptiveness and the support he received from his DFEMS command team.

"I want to thank my team, my command team, they've been so outstanding. I just want to thank you for the patience. I know, we had a lot of ups and downs, especially during this pandemic. But I want to make sure that they understand that I appreciate every work that they've done for me. Sometimes I can be a little challenging when it comes down to my vision, my plans. Sometimes it's a 'just get it done' kind of commands, but for the most part they got it done, and I'm very happy they're here and still ready to continue the mission. I also want to thank the community for allowing the department to do its work, for allowing the department to do what it needs to do to try and follow through with the mission statement. I also want to thank our commander, the governor, for allowing me to be here and allowing me to work with the department and grow with this department," he said.

Mesa said that, thanks to Mendiola, the department has a solid foundation to stand on in terms of carrying out their mission.

"He built a strong foundation and that foundation made this team a lot stronger in cooperating with different divisions, different agencies, and meeting the objectives. … He [leaves] this team strong in character, strong in leadership, and confident to continue to do what they do. Commish, we wish you well," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

34

From Page 4

ies; 143 active cases; and 31 COVID-19-related deaths. Of the total, 10,205 were identified via community testing and 780 via travel testing.

CHCC said in a news release Wednesday night that some duplicates were deleted and that Rota recorded 196 cases from March 2 to March 22, 2022.

"Moving forward, COVID-19 updates will be reported weekly," it said.

A total of 25 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered on March 22, 2022; of the eligible population, 59.4% have already received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 314 COVID-19 tests were conducted on March 22, 2022: 256 via Commu-

JUDICIARY

From Page 3

They said their clientele is growing and the court is progressing in line with the national standards.

One aspect of growth that Castro and Naraja are aiming for in fiscal year 2023 is the construction of a new courthouse on Tinian. They said the Tinian Courthouse is nearly 30 years old, and is not equipped for social distancing, nor does it have adequate space for additional judicial services. They said a new courthouse will help alleviate these concerns and will be a welcome sight in the new Civic Center on Tinian, which could be utilized by generations to come for judicial and other public services.

Last August, the Judiciary submitted an amended fiscal year 2022 budget request in the amount of $12.85 million that reflects, among others, a 10% salary increase across-the-board, with the exception of justices and judges.

Under the fiscal year 2022 budget law, the Judiciary is appropriated $5.93 million from the general fund and $2.10 million from ARPA funds, for a total of $8.04 million.

BOTCHED

From Page 1

man was convicted of DUI in Michigan in 2006 and again in Idaho in 2011.

Hiesterman's medical license was also suspended on Oct. 1, 2015, in Washington, according to the findings of the Department of Health, Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery.

"A routine background check by [CHCC] would reveal Dr. Hiesterman's possible addiction to alcohol and his inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety. CHCC knew or should have known that Dr. Hiesterman was unfit or incompetent and CHCC created a particular risk of harm to others by hiring Dr. Hiesterman," Dotts said.

He said his client is asking the court to award her $2 million for past, present, and future medical expenses and related living costs in an amount to be determined at trial.

On top of that, Dotts said Maratita also wants the court to award her $100,000 for emotional distress, pain, and suffering, and lost enjoyment of life; and $200,000 for past wages.

According to the lawsuit, back in Jan. 9, 2020, Hiesterman performed laparoscopic surgery on Maratita to remove her gallbladder. After the operation Maratita claims she did not feel right after the surgery and was in extreme pain.

The plaintiff said she asked to remain at the hospital for post-operative care and observation, but instead Hiesterman sent her home with pain medications.

On Jan. 10, 2020, a day after the surgery, Maratita went back to the emergency room due to acute abdominal pain near the site of the surgery.

Hiesterman was consulted, but he assumed she was just having gas pain and prescribed her stronger medication for pain control. This did not help and Maratita claims she still felt immense pain and nausea, leading to her admission at the CHCC on Jan. 12, 2020.

On Jan. 13, 2020 while she was admitted, a CT scan was performed over Maratita's pelvic area and it was discovered that there was fluid in her abdomen, and bile duct leakage was cited as one of the possible causes for the fluid.

Again, despite this report of a possible leakage, Hiesterman allegedly did not look into the matter and just sent Maratita off with more pain medications on Jan. 14, 2020.

After being discharged on Jan. 14, Maratita said the pain and her vomiting only grew worse and her stomach started to bloat.

On Jan. 18, 2020, another CT scan was performed on Maratita, revealing a significant amount of fluid in her abdomen.

However, it was only after a third CT scan conducted on Jan. 24, 2020, that Hiesterman performed surgery on Maratita to insert a device to drain the fluid in her abdomen but, by then, the fluid buildup had significantly worsened. In addition, the device allegedly was not positioned correctly, and Maratita had to undergo another surgery on Feb. 3 to reposition it.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Grijalva, Porter push resumption of Compact negotiations

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Natural Resources Committee chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee chair Katie Porter (D-Calif.) have released the following joint statement regarding the announcement of Ambassador Joe Yun as the new Special Presidential Envoy for negotiations with the Freely Associated States—the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau—to extend the Compacts of Free Association:

"Ambassador Yun is an accomplished diplomat who has ably served both Democratic and Republican administrations in difficult assignments, and we are optimistic that his appointment marks a new chapter in efforts to renew the Compacts of Free Association.

"Ambassador Yun inherits negotiations that have been stalled for more than a year. We urge Ambassador Yun to move quickly to address the underlying personnel and policy issues, including U.S. positions on the legacy of nuclear weapons testing in the Marshall Islands during the Cold War. We hope he will work with Congress and this Subcommittee as we conduct oversight to provide accountability for the American people.

Grijalva

"The United States has a special relationship with the Freely Associated States, a moral obligation to further address the legacy of U.S. nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands, and a national security imperative to renew the Compacts of Free Association that are so critical to countering China and other U.S. interests in the Indo-Pacific.

"We are encouraged by this development and look forward to working with Ambassador Yun."

From 1946 to 1958, the U.S. government conducted 67 nuclear weapons tests in the Marshall Islands, with an explosive yield equivalent to 1.7 Hiroshima-sized bombs every day for 12 years. At the time, the U.S. government administered the Marshall Islands in a United Nations Trust, with full responsibility for the health and welfare of the Marshallese people.

The U.S. government withheld information related to the nuclear testing program during the negotiation of the original Compact of Free Association, and provided funds for legal claims related to nuclear testing that ultimately covered less than 10 % of damages awarded by a special tribunal. Although the U.S. government has apologized for above-ground nuclear testing in the southwestern United States through the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, there has been no such apology for the legacy of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands.

On Oct. 21, 2021, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee invited the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Department of State to testify at hearing on Runit Dome and the U.S. nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands. The State Department declined to testify, tried to force DOI to withdraw its testimony, and blocked DOE from producing documents promised to the Subcommittee during the hearing. The Committee's Jan. 25 document request to the State Department remains unanswered. ***(PR)***

The Mobility Space is
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The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through theimplementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

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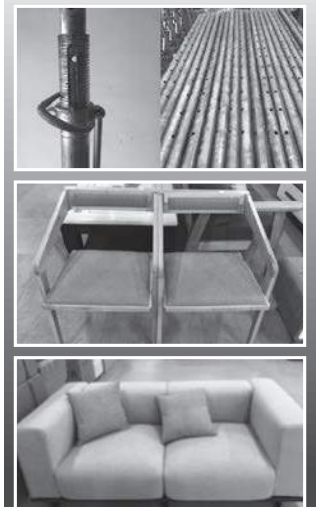
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Dynamic Core Group, Inc. dba Shirley's Coffee Shop
THE POSITION: Cook
JOB DESCRIPTION: Inspect and clean food preparation areas, such as equipment and work surfaces, or serving areas to ensure safe and sanitary food-handling practices; Ensure freshness of food and ingredients by checking for quality, keeping track of old and new items, and rotating stock; Ensure food is stored and cooked at correct temperature by regulating temperature of ovens, broilers, grills, and roasters; Season and cook food according to recipes or personal judgment and experience; Turn or stir foods to ensure even cooking; Observe and test foods to determine if they have been cooked sufficiently, using methods such as tasting, smelling, or piercing them with utensils; Portion, arrange, and garnish food, and serve food to waiters or patrons; Weigh, measure, and mix ingredients according to recipes or personal judgment, using various kitchen utensils and equipment; Bake, roast, broil, and steam meats, fish, vegetables, and other foods; Wash, peel, cut, and seed fruits and vegetables to prepare them for consumption; Coordinate and supervise work of kitchen staff; Estimate expected food consumption, requisition or purchase supplies, or procure food from storage; Substitute for or assist other cooks during emergencies or rush periods; Consult with supervisory staff to plan menus, taking into consideration factors, such as costs and special event needs; Carve and trim meats such as beef, veal, ham, pork, and lamb for hot or cold service, or for sandwiches; Keep records and accounts; and Plan and price menu items.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must be at least High School Graduate
EXPERIENCE: Must have at least twenty-four (24) months of relevant work experience as a Cook
JOB SITE: Hagoi Road, Talaya Avenue, Susupe, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail your application letter, together with a comprehensive resume, and supporting credentials including, but are not limited to, employment certificates to:

EDGARDO S. MACARIO
General Manager
DYNAMIC CORE GROUP, INC. DBA SHIRLEY'S COFFEE SHOP

Office Address: Hagoi Road, Talaya Avenue, Susupe
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 504580, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: puy_macario@shirleyscoffeeshopsaipan.com
Telephone Number: 1(670) 235-5379

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Dynamic Core Group, Inc. dba Shirley's Coffee Shop
THE POSITION: Accountant
JOB DESCRIPTION: Prepare and review monthly budget to actual variances and cash flow sources and uses of funds and ensure compliance with approved budgets; Analyze daily recording of revenue and expenditures for correct account classification in accordance with guidelines, generally accepted accounting principles and regulatory requirements; Review all financial transactions entered in the general and subsidiary ledgers ensuring that all costs (labor, materials, overhead, and costs) are completely and accurately recorded in the company's accounting system; Record daily business transactions and prepare billing statements to customers and clients; Prepare costing of products; Review and summarizes business reports; Makes financial recommendations to management; Responsible for budget control; Monitors and facilitates various payments to suppliers, vendors, and process payments; Review and analyze monthly operating report on activities and resources in support of compiled daily revenues and expenditures, aging reports for receivables and payables and profit and loss accounts; Review and summarize business reports and all documents based on results of analytics review; Investigate causes of variances and prepare report for management information; Prepare periodic tax filings (monthly gross receipt tax, corporate income tax returns, FICA, and EWR Quarterly Reports); Computes and prepare bi-weekly or semi-monthly payrolls for employees; Interact management decisions, particularly involving financial decisions to improve business operations; Monitor on a regular basis the status of inventory stocks on hand and coordinate with chefs and purchasing officer regarding propriety of actual charges; Implement strict adherence to established internal control systems and procedures; Prepare yearly financial statements (Balance Sheets and Income Statements).

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting
EXPERIENCE: Must have at least sixty (60) months of relevant work experience as an Accountant

JOB SITE: Hagoi Road, Talaya Avenue, Susupe, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail your application letter, together with a comprehensive professional resume, and supporting credentials including, but are not limited to, employment certificates to:

EDGARDO S. MACARIO
General Manager
DYNAMIC CORE GROUP, INC. DBA SHIRLEY'S COFFEE SHOP

Office Address: Hagoi Road, Talaya Avenue, Susupe
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 504580, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: puy_macario@shirleyscoffeeshopsaipan.com
Telephone Number: 1(670) 235-5379

CUC vegetation clearing ongoing

With what seems like non-stop vegetation growth on the islands, the Power Division of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.s works just as hard to continuously clear them out from under and on power lines, said CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho.

In an interview regarding the progress of clearing out vegetation and trees from power lines, Camacho says he is "very, very impressed with the amount of work that they do and the speed in which they're doing it."

According to Camacho, the work the Power Division does "has reduced the voltage frequency issues to some extent. We haven't had very many outages since that was directly involved with vegetation."

However, there were some trees that had to be cut down and Camacho is working closely with Sid Cabrera, an agriculturist and agricultural consultant, to help replace some of those trees and "coordinate the plans and get out and do the planting."

With some of federal funds directed to this division, the 20 staff assigned for vegetation clearing is expected to continue with their work for about two years, which began in the middle of January this year. According to Camacho, he has also submitted a couple of requests for the same service on Tinian. He is "hopeful that they would be considered and approved so we can get that done out there."

Joe Rabauliman, who functions as the team leader of the vegetation clearing crew, said Wednesday, "Right now, we're working [on a portion of Beach Road in Garapa] and we're concentrating mostly on our main lines. …We're trying to get everything as much as possible so that we can move into those other lines, the single lines that lead into the jungles or in the villages."

Rabauliman commends the young staff for working hard under the hot sun and that "they've been doing an excellent job." According to him, a lot of the staff are young and for some of them, this is their first job. Some of their livelihoods have also been directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CUC would like to remind the public of House Bill 14-112, HS1, SS1 that restricts the planting of trees and other vegetation below and around power lines and facilities. That bill was passed by the 14th Legislature.

Private land owners, lessees, and renters are urged to comply and CUC would be responsible for the first removal of noncompliant trees and vegetation surrounding all primary and secondary lines. ***(Leigh Gases)***

Veteran town hall meetings on Rota, Tinian

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, through the CNMI Office of the Governor and the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, invites all veterans residing on Rota and Tinian to veteran town hall meetings to discuss issues of concern for veterans and military families.

The fourth town hall meeting is slated for Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room on Rota and will be from 6pm to 8pm.

The fifth town hall meeting is slated for Friday, April 1, 2022 at the Tinian Public Library in Tinian and will be from 6pm to 8pm.

The town hall meetings are designed to be an interactive forum for veterans and military families to voice their needs and concerns.

Please contact the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs at (670) 664-2650 for more information. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: March 25, 2022

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding proposed funding for the Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Facility, Rapid Refill Project, at Saipan International Airport. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/CZMA.Federal- Consistency-Determination.GSN_.ARFF-Rapid-Refill-Project.03-22-22.Complete.doc.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a state's federally approved coastal management program (CMP).

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's CMP can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

Public notices are published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. State agencies are not required to provide public notice of the receipt of a negative determination or the resolution of an objection to a negative determination, unless a Federal agency submits a consistency determination pursuant to 15 CFR § 930.34. DCRM is soliciting public comments for seven (7) days, starting on March 25, 2022 and ending on March 31, 2022. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

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50 - 75% OFF

YARDAGES & LACES

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INVENTORY WEEK SALE

FRIDAY, MARCH 25 TO THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

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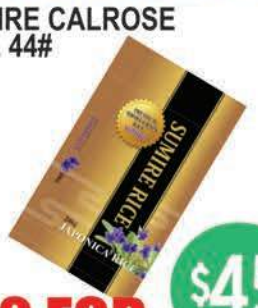

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BUTTERBALL/CAROLINA GROUND TURKEY WHT 16oz

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SUNLAND FROZEN CHICKEN WHOLE FRYERS PER LB

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DOL-WIA reaches out to Rota, Tinian

The CNMI Department of Labor-Workforce Investment Agency held business engagement-information sessions on March 2 on Tinian and March 8 on Rota. Members of the business community, from both public and private sectors, received information on services from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the CNMI Apprenticeship State Expansion Programs to support their workforce needs. Both sessions were well attended.

"This [was] the first time we held an info session for both islands under the WIOA and the CNMI ASE Programs and we plan to hold more of these sessions in the near future," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, who was pleased to see the amount of participation from local businesses. "It was nice to see the different businesses attend our info sessions and the engagement during the presentations," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joseph Villacrusis, standing, ASE program manager, conducts the information sessions for the business community on Tinian and Rota.

Employers are vital partners to the WIOA service delivery system. The main goal for these sessions is to put greater emphasis on engaging employers as partners.

For additional information on becoming a partner of the WIOA and/or the CNMI Apprenticeship State Expansion Program, call (670) 664-1708 or email at cnmiwioa@dol.gov.mp or apprenticeship@dol.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER RENOVATION PROJECT**, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-17.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Air Traffic Control Tower Renovation Project for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-004-17"* and submitted no later than **2:00 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited, repairs and improvements to the Air Traffic Control Tower inclusive of restrooms, kitchens, ceiling, flooring, walls, cab and catwalk, diagonal bracings, antenna supports, air conditioning, ventilation, plumbing, fire, jockey pump systems, electrical equipment and other miscellaneous work on non-damaged components necessary for required repair of damaged components, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY (420) calendar days**.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND ($1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (US $250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". Bidders should notify CPA immediately if there are issues retrieving the files in the DVD.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the ARFF Classroom at the Saipan Airport Fire Station, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. The pre-bid and site visit are not mandatory. However, it is the bidders' responsibility to familiarize themselves with the project location and conditions. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as face wear a mask at all times while at the airport. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Edward Mendiola, CPA's Deputy Director, at edmendiola@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6505.

Bidders attention is called to the fact that this is a renovation project, and the bid is to be lump sum inclusive of all work described in the contract documents including all labor, equipment, materials (including excess waste materials), necessary fittings and accessories. Lump sum work shall include all work on existing concealed elements referenced by the contract documents or required for completion of any other elements specifically refereced in the contract documents.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-27 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 10, 2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT AND ISOLATED SPALL REPAIRS TO PCC PAVEMENT AT GATES 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5**, SAIPAN, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-20.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement and Isolated Spall Repairs to PCC Pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-002-20"* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges and isolated spall repairs to PCC pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 and spall repairs at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT (568) calendar days if awarded all three bridges.** Duration may adjust based on funding availability which will determine the number of bridges to be replaced.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND ($1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A DVD containing the plans and specification, including the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-29 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 2, 2022

Revenue and Taxation
Department of Finance

P.O. Box 5234 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. (670) 664-1000 Fax: (670) 664-1015

EITC ANNOUNCEMENT

Changes to the earned income tax credit for the 2022 filing season

The EITC is one of the federal government's largest refundable tax credits for low-to moderate-income families. The recent expansion of this credit means that more people may qualify to have some much-needed money put back in their pocket.

The CNMI Division of Revenue & Taxation urges people to check to see if they qualify for this important credit. While people with income under a certain amount aren't required to file a tax return because they won't owe any tax, those who qualify for EITC may get a refund if they file a 2021 tax return.

Here's an overview of the recent notable changes to the EITC for tax year 2021 only:

Expanded EITC for people who do not have qualifying children
More workers without qualifying children can qualify for the EITC, and the maximum credit amount is nearly tripled for these taxpayers this year. For the first time, the credit is now available to both younger workers and senior citizens. There is no upper age limit for claiming the credit if taxpayers have earned income.

The EITC is generally available to workers without qualifying children who are at least 19 years old with earned income below $21,430 for those filing single and $27,380 for spouses filing a joint return. The maximum credit for taxpayers with no qualifying children is $1,502. There are also special exceptions for people who are 18 years old and were formerly in foster care or are experiencing homelessness. Full-time students under age 24 don't qualify.

Some taxpayers can use 2019 earned income to figure their EITC
Taxpayers can elect to use their 2019 earned income to figure their 2021 earned income credit if their 2019 earned income is more than their 2021 earned income. This option may help workers get a larger credit if they earned less in 2021 from employment. Taxpayers can use line 27c of Form 1040-CM.

Phaseouts and credit limits For 2021, the amount of the credit has been increased and the phaseout income limits have been expanded.

Any third-round Economic Impact Payments or child tax credit payments received are not taxable or counted as income for purposes of claiming the EITC. People who are missing a stimulus payment or got less than the full amount may be eligible to claim the recovery rebate credit on their 2021 tax return.

New law changes expand the EITC for 2021 and future years. These changes include:

• More workers and working families who also have investment income can get the credit. Starting in tax year 2021, the amount of investment income they can receive and still be eligible for the EITC increases to $10,000. After 2021, the $10,000 limit is indexed for inflation. EITC ANNOUNCEMENT

• Married but separated spouses can choose to be treated as not married for the purposes claiming EITC. To qualify, the spouse claiming the credit cannot file jointly with the other spouse. They must have a qualifying child living with them for more than half the year and either:

- o Do not have the same principal residence as the other spouse for at least the last six months out of the year.
- o Are legally separated according to their state law under a written separation agreement or a decree of separate maintenance and not live in the same household as their spouse at the end of the tax year for which the EITC is being claimed. Taxpayers should file Schedule EIC and check the box showing them as married filing separately with a qualifying child.

• Single people and couples with children who have Social Security numbers can claim the credit, even if their children do not have SSNs. In this instance, they will get the smaller credit available to workers who do not have qualifying children. Taxpayers should complete Schedule EIC and attach it to Form 1040-CM if they have at least one qualifying child, even if the child doesn't have a valid SSN. For more information, taxpayers should review the instructions for Form 1040-CM, line 27a, and Schedule EIC.

For more on earned income tax credit please visit www.irs.gov/eitc or talk to your tax preparer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

The other hell: We must not forget Yemeni civilians

In the remains of a society shattered by war, families waste away waiting for fuel and food and medicine that may never come. This is not in Ukraine, but Yemen, where Western TV cameras are few.

Another contrast is that, while the U.S. government has rightfully supported the locals' spirited defense against foreign aggression in Ukraine, in Yemen it is the foreign aggressors in Saudi Arabia who get our security assistance and American-made weapons. Although President Biden last year vowed to stop arming the Saudi offensive, there are loopholes large enough to fly a formation of fighter planes through.

While strikes on civilian infrastructure in Ukraine shock the world, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen has struck residential buildings and other nonmilitary targets, and for about a year maintained a brutal fuel blockade against the whole country. The result, according to the World Food Program, is a situation where 2.2 million children under 5 years old are at risk of acute malnutrition.

The issue is complicated by the fact that the Saudis are a U.S. ally and the Houthi rebels on the other side are supported by Iran, but this does not excuse the abhorrent targeting of civilians. Biden must use his leverage over the Saudis to ensure they, at the very least, lift the blockade. Enough is enough.

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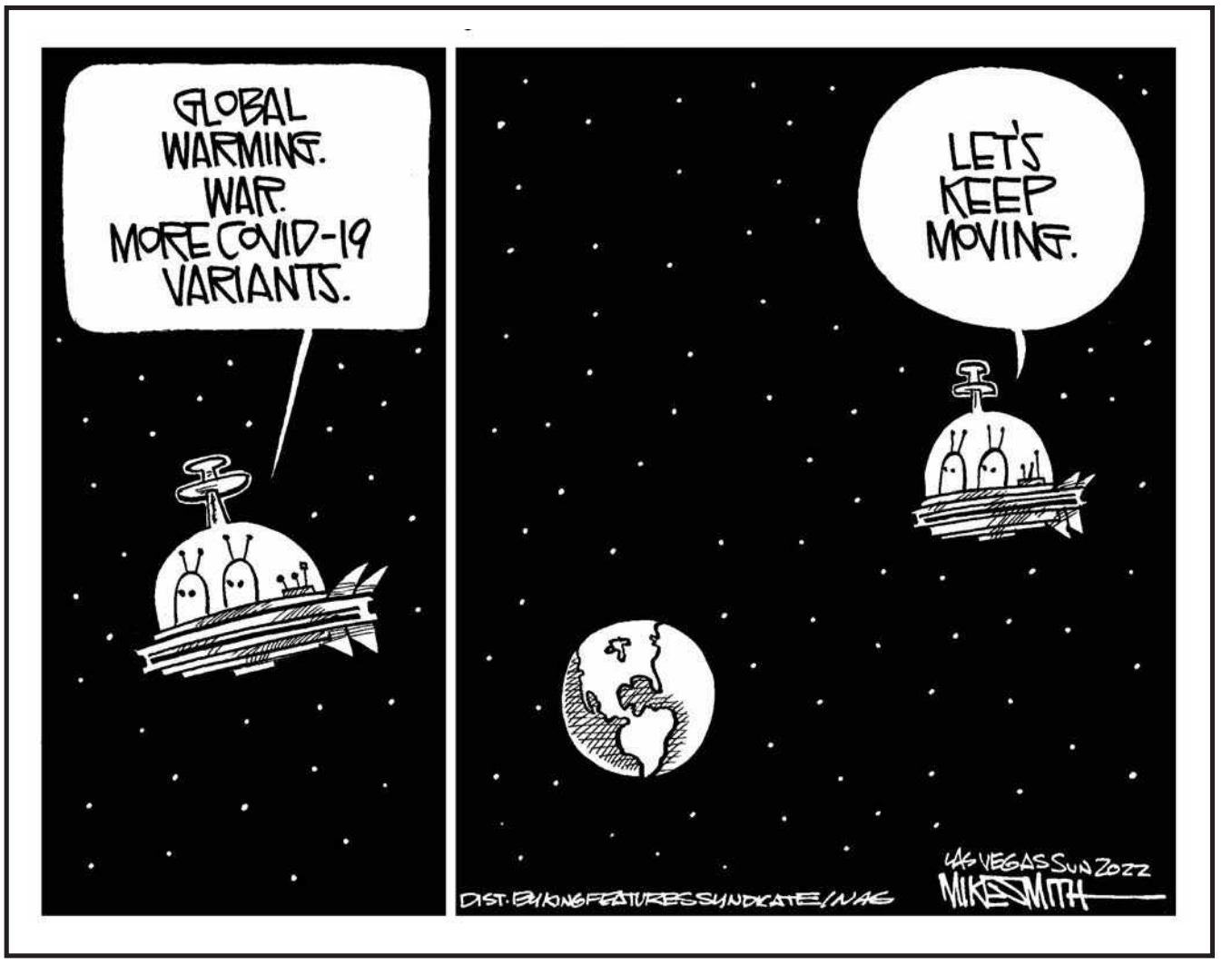

GLOBAL WARMING. WAR. MORE COVID-19 VARIANTS.
LET'S KEEP MOVING.
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS
LAS VEGAS SUN 2022
MIKE SMITH

Russia's aggression makes the Baltics think they might be next. Here is how to avoid it

By LINAS KOJALA
Chicago Tribune

Linas Kojala is director of the Eastern Europe Studies Centre, a think tank in Vilnius, Lithuania.

An elderly man in Vilnius was recently looking at the military vehicles parked on the city's main street as a part of the Independence Day celebrations. Some of the vehicles were of the Lithuanian military. Others came from the U.S.

He was approached by a journalist who asked whether foreign military on Lithuanian soil was causing anxiety. "Why would it?" responded the man, who appeared to be in his 80s. "I have been waiting for them to come for 70 years of my life."

The allied troops were not deployed to the Baltics during the guerrilla struggle against the Soviets immediately after World War II. Yet they are present now because the Baltics are members of NATO.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have long felt that Russia's revanchism was bound to return. Such concern was not entirely shared by other European nations. In 2001, Russian President Vladimir Putin even flirted with the idea of cooperating with NATO.

The Baltic states might think now is the time to say, "We told you so." But there is no point in doing this. It is essential to focus on avoiding the scenario of the Baltics being the next target of Russia, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy already warned. For that, three steps have to be taken.

History may teach us a lesson. The Baltics nowadays resemble West Berlin during the Cold War era. Situated near Russia and the similarly belligerent Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have become an island of democracy surrounded by aggressors.

First, the West must maintain strong support for Ukraine. Anti-tank and anti-aircraft weaponry matters the most now. In the future, a new Marshall Plan will have to be adopted to rebuild the country and restore its economy, which has already suffered damage worth around $100 billion.

Sanctions on Russia also play a role in this regard. They will harm Russia's economy, as well as the economies of the West. However, any costs incurred by the people in the free world are negligible compared to the suffering of Ukrainians. The West must avoid falling into the trap of returning "back to normal" as soon as the first signs of a cease-fire or political settlement appear. The impact of war is going to be lengthy.

Second, the bravery of the Ukrainian people to defend their homeland must inspire proponents of liberal democracy. For more than a decade, democracy has been deemed to be "under siege' and 'in decline," yet it proved to be resilient at the time of a catastrophe in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy, a comedian elected president, has proved to be an inspirational leader. Western democracies have also shown unprecedented unity in response to the Russian aggression. Yet if fatigue kicks in or attention span declines, and Ukraine ultimately struggles to defend itself, democracy and freedom will also suffer. The ramifications will go beyond the borders of Ukraine.

Third, NATO must adapt. Before Russia's invasion, limited deterrence on NATO's eastern flank was sufficient. Yet Putin increased his risk tolerance significantly, and nobody knows the new limit. As Ukrainians warn, there are no guarantees that he might not test NATO countries next.

History may teach us a lesson. The Baltics nowadays resemble West Berlin during the Cold War era. Situated near Russia and the similarly belligerent Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have become an island of democracy surrounded by aggressors.

Deterrence must switch to a much more defensive posture, resembling that of the allied presence in West Germany during the

See RUSSIA'S on Next Page

Governor dismayed with House's inaction on retirees' bonus

Editor's Note: The author issued the following statement regarding the current state of the bonuses for deserving retirees.

Since the beginning of my administration, we have recognized the decades-long dedication of our public servants, and we have expressed the need to take care of those who have served our islands and people before us."

Last December, to show our gratitude, and at the mercy of the COVID-19 pandemic, my administration proffered a $500 bonus for all retirees to help with any medical and other living expenses. To accomplish this, David DLG Atalig, your Secretary of Finance, and I dialogued with NMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce Tang and the Office of the Attorney General on the best course of action. Cohesively, we agreed that a joint resolution by the Legislature to create a new business unit within the current budget, and granting me with the reprogramming authority to allocate $1.3 million for this purpose, would be appropriate.

In response to this, the Senate adopted Senate Joint Resolution 22-5 and approved my request to authorize reprogramming of the $1.3 million. Sadly, the House rejected this initiative in favor of House Bill 22-91, which earmarked funds that were line-item vetoed in the fiscal year 2022 Budget Act. This action would have taken resources away from vital programs that were already established.

Throughout this process, the Senate has persistently acted in the best interest of our community, and it has consistently sought to find solutions to provide these monies to our retirees.

This past February, the Senate took the step to increase the bonus from $500 to $1,000 for each retiree. Further, to ensure that the retiree bonuses would be funded and, most importantly, so that similar issues would be avoided in the future, the Senate saw it fit to provide me with 100% reprogramming authority. Unfortunately, the House again chose to politicize this issue and push its agenda of removing me from office forward. The House simply chose to overlook viable options that could have secured these funds for our retirees—which they have waited on since December.

Now, in March 2022, the Senate adopted Joint Resolution 22-9, which approved my request to create a new program and business unit for retiree bonuses to reprogram $2.6 million within the Executive Branch. This would have been one step closer for our retirees to receive the $1,000 bonus.

The House majority opted to concern themselves with the funding sources of these bonuses, and they ignored my reprogramming authority in order to make this ill decision.

As your administration has previously stated: the retiree bonuses will neither increase nor reduce the current budget level. The Secretary of Finance and I identified the local funding sources to fund this bonus for our retirees, and it is derived from no other than the Office of the Governor and the Department of Finance—no other program.

The House of Representatives is in support of providing a bonus to our retirees as a final outcome. However, it is unfortunate that there have been numerous instances where this topic has been politicized instead of acted upon. It is extremely disappointing, to say the least.

Simply put: The House majority has chosen to publicize its dislike of our administration and my decision-making authority as governor to stall this process. This only further impacts our deserving retirees who have waited a long time for this financial reprieve.

Our retirees do not deserve to be treated as collateral damage despite certain legislators' dislike for me as governor. I respect their right to oppose my decisions, to not support my re-election, and even my current role as the chief executive. However, I humbly ask that their disfavor of me does not negatively impact our community and retirees.

Fast-forward to today, the Senate has removed the 100% reprogramming authority. It is a decision that I support so long as it is a step close to our retirees' receiving their bonuses. Pettily, the House still finds itself fixated on the specific, non-issue of funding source.

Once again, I am urging the House of Representatives to put its political dislike of me, and its agenda thereof, aside, so that we can work together to best serve those who have put us into office, and to get these bonuses out to our retirees soon.

By RALPH DLG TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Covenant Day marks 46 years of a strong relationship between the NMI and the US

On March 24, 1976, the U.S government signed the agreement known as the Covenant Agreement that allowed the Northern Mariana Islands to a joint political alliance with the United States, but with a twist—the right to local self-government. Since then, the NMI has since observed March 24 as Covenant Day. This year, the NMI will celebrate 46 years of a historical event that has forever changed the NMI.

Many of us residents were present for the Covenant signing, which has fulfilled our need to be part of a nation with shared goals and values found in the American system of government and based upon the principles of government by the consent of the governed, individual freedom, and democracy. The Covenant outlines an important relationship between the Northern Marianas and the United States.

One of the most important contributions of the Covenant for our people is the granting of U.S. citizenship to the citizens of the Commonwealth. A great deal of benefits accrues to the people and government of the CNMI under the Covenant including social, economic, and capital infrastructure benefits.

We've achieved a higher standard of living because of the federal monetary contributions to the CNMI government that helps fund social, economic, environmental, and capital programs. The CNMI's investment environment is pro-business development including private-foreign investment.

In 2021, the Senate unanimously passed House Bill 22-21 (Public Law 22-01), which transformed the Commonwealth Development Authority into the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, or CEDA. P.L. 22-01 has helped strengthen the implementation and capacity of the CNMI government to promote and expand economic development on the islands that is driven by the needs and the desires of the community. Economic development will be a top priority of our government in the years ahead.

Essentially, CEDA's role moving forward is to serve as the primary driving force to plan, implement, and foster greater economic development. CEDA continues to focus its efforts on addressing issues that hamper economic development. It will also work to make the CNMI a highly competitive business and investment environment for private investment and technological advancement.

Let us all be reminded when celebrating Covenant Day that the people and government of the CNMI are the beneficiaries of all the positive attributes from the Covenant.

Wishing you and your families a Happy Covenant Day!

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

TOGETHER, WE CAN
By MANUEL A. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Manny Sablan is the executive director of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority and is an experienced economist and planner in government service with 12 years of banking services and economic development and five years in planning and budget affairs. Sablan holds a Master of Business Administration in Finance, is a development economist (recipient of United Nations fellowship grant) and holder of a bachelor's degree in Economics minor in Business Administration from Rockhurst College, Kansas City, Missouri.

RUSSIA'S

From Page 10

Cold War. The current level of allied troops—around 10,000 in Baltic states combined—is inadequate. At the height of the Cold War, the U.S. had 20 times more troops in West Germany.

Moreover, the situation in Ukraine has shown the need for adequate air defense. Yet the Baltics are vulnerable in this regard. Two U.S. Patriot missile batteries were recently deployed to Poland; the Baltic leaders have been calling for the permanent deployment of Patriot batteries for years.

Deterrence and strong defensive posturing are much more appropriate—and cost-effective—options than tackling any hybrid provocation. People in the Baltics who waited for allies to arrive for decades would undoubtedly approve.

Protect the rights of students with IEP to dispute the award of a high school diploma and remain in school

By JEANNE RAYPHAND
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System (hereafter referred to as PSS) to make available a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all students with disabilities ages 3 to 21…" NMIAC § 60-50-101.

There are some limitations and exceptions: *NMIAC § 60-50-105.* One of the exceptions is that "[t]he obligation make FAPE available does not apply to children with disabilities who have graduated from high school with a regular high school diploma." *NMIAC § 60-50-105 (b).*

Graduation from high school with a regular high school diploma constitutes a change in placement, requiring written prior notice. The term regular high school diploma does not include an alternative degree that is not fully aligned with the CNMI PSS' academic standards, such as a certificate or a general education development credential. *NMIAC § 60-50-105 (b): Therefore, CNMI PSS is required to give written notice whenever it proposes to graduate a student with an IEP from high school, i.e., proposes a change of placement. NMIAC § 60-50-502.*

Because a student's eligibility to receive special education services will terminate upon graduation and is considered a change in placement, parents have a right to dispute the award of a diploma and use the due process system to try to prevent the loss of services. Graduation should not be used as a device to prematurely terminate special education services needed by a student.

This is not to say that, for example, a student with a mild learning disability, who requires only minor classroom modifications cannot be expected to earn the same credits toward graduation as a non-disabled peer and graduate upon completing those credits. But students with more severe disabilities typically need to be measured on a different scale. For such a student the TEAM needs to establish criteria for graduation that are based on IEP goals and objectives specific to that student. Criteria for the delivery of a diploma, or the termination of special education services before the student "ages out," should in good sense be based on achievement of functional living skills and employability, as well as meeting academic standards. *(Crabtree, Robert K. "Developmental Disabilities & High School Graduation," Topics: Developmental Disabilities & High School Graduation [https://www.wrightslaw.com › fape.graduate.crabtree.htm].*

In the event that the school system proposes to graduate a student with disabilities who has not achieved the education and employability skills needed, action can be taken to protect the rights of the student to remain in school. Initially, the IEP and proposed graduation should be discussed with the IEP team. However, if an appropriate education plan cannot be established and the school system insists on graduation for the student, that decision can be contested using the PSS' due process procedures.

Students with developmental disabilities have a right to a free appropriate education and should not be deprived of that right by the inappropriate awarding of a high school diploma.

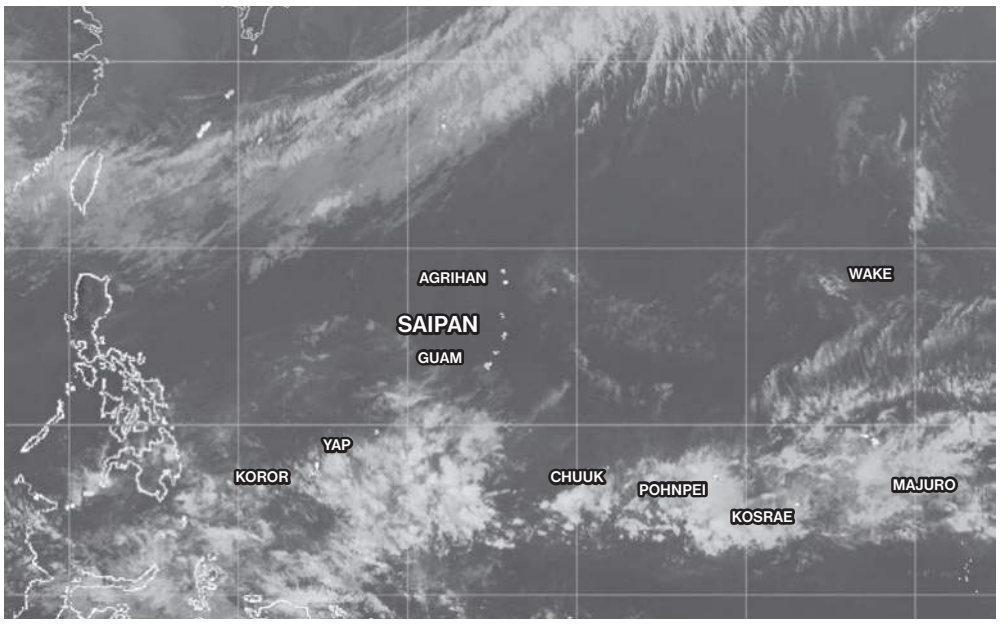
Jeanne Rayphand, Esq. is legal counsel for the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Breezy. Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. highs in the upper 80s.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. highs in the upper 80s.
86º 77º	86º 75º	86º 76º	85º 76	85º 76º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:39 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly clear skies are present across the Marianas with a few showers well south of Guam. The latest altimetry pass shows seas between 6 to 7 feet with the Ipan buoy showing an east 6 foot swell at 10 seconds.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	AM Showers	29 / 25 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	28 / 24 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstormsm	28 / 25 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:17 AM	18:28 PM
Saturday	06:17 AM	18:28 PM
Sunday	06:16 AM	18:28 PM
Monday	06:15 AM	18:28 PM
Tuesday	06:15 AM	18:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Tuesday	00:20	11:45 PM	-
Saturday	01:23	12:47 PM	-
Sunday	02:22	13:50 PM	-
Monday	03:17	14:51 PM	-
Tuesday	04:06	15:50 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy/Wind	23 / 17 °F
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	16 / 7 °F
Hong Kong	Scattered Thunderstorms	22 / 21 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	27 / 22 °F
London	Mostly Sunny	18 / 3 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	29 / 14 °F
Manila	Sunny	35 / 26 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	21 / 11 °F
Miami	AM Showers	23 / 16 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	16 / 8 °F
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	19 / 11 °F
Paris	Sunny	21 / 6 °F
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	17 / 14 °F
Rome	Sunny	20 / 5 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	19 / 7 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	17 / 10 °F
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	19 / 12 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	18 / 13 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	17 / 7 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
02:19 AM	High Tide	1.63
07:11 AM	Low Tide	1.30
11:55 AM	High Tide	1.71
7:54 PM	Low Tide	0.18

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH/APRIL 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 3, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	ICN 2x weekly – T'Way, OZ, Jeju

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM

PUS 2x weekly – Air Busan last flight Mar 30

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA116	8:00am	8:46am	7
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2, 4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9307	9:00AM	Q2:30PM	4, 7
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	ICN 2x weekly – T'Way, OZ, Jeju

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM

ICN 2x weekly – Air Seoul
PUS 2x weekly – Jeju starting Mar 30
MWX Muan 2x weekly - Jeju starting Mar 30

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Sexual Assault Awareness Month to kick off Thursday

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is inviting members of the community to take part in the proclamation signing ceremony to declare April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 10am at Kensington Hotel Saipan in San Roque.

The ceremony will also be live streamed via NMCADSV's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/endviolencenmi. The CNMI has been recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month with annual campaigns that aim to raise public awareness on the issue and empower community members to engage in prevention throughout the year.

"We have hosted this significant event for the last 15 years," said NMCADSV associate director Kiki I. Benjamin. "Although it is a very difficult topic to talk about, especially when you are the victim-survivor, we are proud to share our realization that more victims and survivors are now speaking up and helping to educate our community about the impacts of sexual assault.

"While the last two years were more restricted than previous years, everyone can still make a difference and support victims and survivors," Benjamin added.

She also invites community members to take part in the SAAM events and activities scheduled throughout April, including Wave, Walk & Roll to End Sexual Violence on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at the Mount Carmel Cathedral field area. Registration starts at 4:30pm with the waving, and walk and roll following shortly. SAAM T-shirts will be given out to participants while supplies last.

NMCADSV will also be hosting a SAAM Spirit Week Social Media Challenge from Monday, April 25 to Friday, April 29, 2022. This challenge invites individuals and groups like organizations and school clubs to post on social media to raise awareness based on daily prompts provided by NMCADSV. Prizes will be awarded to the individual and group with the most engagement.

Note that more details on events and activities for Tinian and Rota will be announced shortly. In addition, tune in every Wednesday morning on KKMP on 92.1 FM starting on March 30 to April 27, 2022, to hear from professionals and community members talk about various topics related to SAAM.

Visit bit.ly/SAAM2022_CNMI for more information on events and activities, or contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. If you or anyone you know is experiencing sexual violence or abuse, contact 911 for emergency assistance or the 24-Hour Victim Hotline at (670) 234-5100. ***(PR)***

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
Seman Law Offices, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 323-2115
E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com
Attorney for: John Sablan Blanco

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	:	PROBATE CASE NO. No. 22-0065
JOSEPHINE BLANCO AKIYAMA	:	NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF TESTAMENTARY and NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Deceased.	:	DATE: Thur, April 21, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M. JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JOSEPHINE BLANCO AKIYAMA OR OF HER ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that petitioner, John Sablan Blanco, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **JOSEPHINE BLANCO AKIYAMA**, "Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition to for Letters of Testamentary of Decedent by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on Thursday at April 21, 2022, at 10:00am, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to VINCENT J. SEMAN, Esq. at his address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 23 March 2022.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ.
(CNMI Bar No. F0364)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC
D' Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070
Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, -v-	:	Civil Action No. 18-0109
ORRIN O. PHARMIN and LAURA TAMAN OGUMORO, Defendants.	:	NOTICE OF AUCTION ON THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 18, 2021, the court-approved auctioneer, Mr. Richard S. Villagomez, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot 002 G 134, Kagman, Saipan, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 04, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990, under File No. 90-1901 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale:
The sale will be held on the 8th day of April, 2022 at 11:00 a.m., at the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, D'Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.
The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Condition of Sale:
The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, D'Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED this 3rd day of March, 2022.

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC.
/s/ Michael N. Evangelista, Esq. (Bar No. 0364)
Attorney for Plaintiff

Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007 Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 Fax (670) 664-2571

Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
Secretary

Vivian Sablan
Administrator
Division of Youth Services

Rita Chong
Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Office

Parker Yobei
Executive Director
Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture

Walter A. Manglona
Director
Office on Aging

Walter I. Macaranas
Administrator
Nutrition Assistance Program

Melvin Faisao
Executive Director
Chamorro / Carolinian Language Policy Commission

Maribel D. Loste, M.Ed
Program Administrator
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDBG)

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Gordon Salas
Childcare Licensing Program

Garapan Street Market

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM 2022 SUMMER PROGRAM

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community-based organizations and autonomous agencies to participate in the CCDF 2022 Summer Program Grant. This grant is open to organizations that offer Summer Program/Activities to all school-aged children between the ages 6 to 12 years old. For this grant, a total of 20 awards will be provided (Saipan-10, Tinian-5, Rota-5). CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate. CCDF Summer Program Grant Application Packets may be picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Office, building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. Electronic copies may be requested by sending an email to ccdf.violdiaz65@gmail.com.

Interested applicants should submit one (1) original and another copy in a thumb drive of the completed application and requirements, sealed and marked: CCDF Summer Program Grant Application 2022. Attention: Viola Diaz, Administrative Specialist. All applications must be stamped and received no later than April 15, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and returned.

CCDF will only accept written inquiries regarding this grant opportunity and should be addressed to Viola Diaz on or before 4:00 p.m. March 31, 2022. Inquiries received after this date and time will not be entertained. All inquiries should be submitted via email at ccdf.violdiaz65@gmail.com with subject heading CCDF 2022 Summer Program. Responses will be provided via email and posted on www.cnmicclp.gov.mp

/s/ Maribel S. D. Loste
CCDF Administrator

02/28/2022
Date

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary

03/01/2022
Date

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857/58 ** Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Website: www.cnmicasinocommission.com
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission hereby gives notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. However, pursuant to Governor Torres' Executive Orders and Directives on the ongoing threat from the COVID-19 pandemic and limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via video conference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes: February 24, 2022

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS:
- A. Report by the Chairman
- B. Report by the Executive Director

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:
- A. Casino Licensee – Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") – Status Updates:
  1. IPI's request for extension of the IGF construction deadline per CLA Amendment #6.
  2. Removal of Tower Cranes #1 and #5
  3. Employee Payroll and Related Benefits Obligations
  4. Unpaid payroll & severance pay for employees already off-island
  5. IPI's FINAL Annual Audit Report (for the year ended December 31, 2020)
  6. 2020 & 2021 Annual Exclusive Casino License Fees. Due Aug 12th each year
  7. 2020 & 2021 Annual Casino Regulatory Fees. Due Oct 1st each year
- B. Other Miscellaneous Matters.

V. OLD BUSINESS:
- A. Administrative Evidentiary Hearing –Proposed Schedule & Case Consolidation:
  * May 3-4, 2022: Complaints #2021-001 through #2021-005

VI. NEW BUSINESS:
- A. Civil Case No. 21-073 – Superior Court Order Affirming the Casino Commission's Suspension of Petitioner's Exclusive Casino ' License and Imposition of Monetary Penalties

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
- A. Consult with Legal Counsel
- B. Report by the CCC Divisions
- C. CCC Personnel Matters

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero
Chairman

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP22-OPD-42200085

SUBMISSION DATE: April 11, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL OF ARCHITECT AND/ OR ENGINEERING SERVICES –CULTURAL EVENT CENTER FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG., GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MR. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG,** VIA E-MAIL AT kodep.uludong@opd.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS DAY, MARCH 25, 2022.** ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID

AIR CONDITIONING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND PORT OF SAIPAN PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Commercial Air-Conditioning Units Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning March 11, 2022, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or by credit cards. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the Bid Package. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the bidder awarded for this project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., March 29, 2022 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building. The purpose of this conference is to allow potential bidders an opportunity to present questions and obtain clarification relative to any facet of this solicitation. While attendance at this conference will not be a prerequisite to submitting bid, bidders who intend to submit a bid are encouraged to attend. Any site visit may be coordinated with Dennis Cruz and Sandy Camacho of the CPA by calling telephone numbers (670)237-6596-(Dennis) and (670)237-6507-(Sandy). Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Procurement Officer via email at atudela@cnmiports.com on or before close of business, April 05, 2022.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Air-Conditioning Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport & Port of Saipan/IFB-003-22". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, April 11, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 2:30 p.m., April 11, 2022 and publicly announced at the CPA Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

March 07, 2022

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

DATE

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-046

Opening Date: March 14, 2022
Closing Date: UNTIL FILLED

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Tinian Administration**
LOCATION:	**Tinian, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Tinian Resident Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Division.

Duties:

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Assist with fuel delivery and fuel transfer for power plant;
- Reports on fuel status and power generation data;
- Assists with meter readings and customer meter connections, disconnections and reconnections;
- Assist with the customer meter inspections;
- Assists with power technical assistance- monitors and inspects contractor for power installations and projects.
- Responding to customer calls.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:
- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-037

Opening Date: March 14, 2022
Closing Date: March 28, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Fiscal Analyst**
DEPARTMENT:	**CFO/Accounting**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$37,756.00 - $50,970.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of CFO/Accounting Division.

Duties:

- The Fiscal Analyst may lead and/or supervise staff to include prioritizing and assigning work.
- Conducting performance evaluations.
- Ensuring staff is trained.
- Ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures.
- Maintaining a healthy and safe working environment.
- Making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Reviews, accounts for, and prepares various financial data such as: reconciling journal entries; accounts receivable aging, summary billing, accounting accruals, recording fixed asset costs or depreciation, calculating and posting payments, adjustments or allotments; and/or accounts payable invoice payments.
- May provide guidance, coordination and/or journal entries during account closing periods.
- Performs analysis, verifies fiscal data, and prepares various management reports.
- Provided inventory monitoring and status reports; reviews purchase order status, vendor statements, and performs quality checks for verification of services or materials received.
- Provides analytical support to internal and external customers and stakeholders.
- Reviews documents and provides guidance in completion of forms; responds to inquiries or issues; researches and provides information on processes and procedures.
- Assists with annual audits by preparing schedules, repots and providing technical support.
- May provide supervision or coordination of physical inventory processes; reconciliation of inventory balances in preparation for financial reporting; and/or monitoring vehicle maintenance schedules and approving vehicle repairs and maintenance.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or directly related field and 2 years of fiscal experience related to area of assignment.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances. Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); generally accepted accounting principles; financial analysis principles and techniques; advanced mathematical concepts; research methods; customer service principles; modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and other applicable standards. Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Providing guidance and leading work activities (based on assignment); Prioritizing activities and meeting deadlines; Preparing financial information, adjustments and entries related to general ledger; Researching, compiling, calculating and reconciling data and information; Researching technical issues, solving problems and providing solutions; Monitoring and maintaining fiscal account information and reporting; Reconciling data, preparing adjustments and posting account and journal entries; Providing attention to accuracy and detail; Preparing reports, correspondence and related fiscal documentation; Providing customer services; Providing technical guidance related to financial systems; Maintaining databases and financial records; Assisting with audits, inventory processes and/or equipment maintenance schedules; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Virtual meeting set on Mariana Trench sanctuary nomination

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will hold a virtual meeting on March 31, 2022, on the Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary nomination.

The virtual meeting will take place from 12pm to 3 p.m ChST (if in Guam or Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). That same time will be Wednesday, March 30, 2022, from 4pm to 7pm HST in Hawaii.

To register, visit https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1179203552492044303.

Written comments must be received by April 25, 2022. Comments may be entered on the Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov. Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal and search for Docket Number NOAA-NOS-2022-0005.

To comment by mail: Kristina Kekuewa, Pacific Islands regional director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1845 Wasp Blvd., Honolulu, Hawaii 96818. To comment by email: Kristina.Kekuewa@noaa.gov.

On Jan. 21, 2022, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries initiated a review of the Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary nomination, which was set to expire on March 13, 2022, after five years in the sanctuary nomination inventory. The announcement included an opportunity for public comment.

NOAA has not initiated a designation process for this site. NOAA is seeking public input on whether the nomination of Mariana Trench should remain on the inventory of sites for potential national marine sanctuary designation.

The purpose of the five-year review is to determine if the nomination remains accurate and responsive to the 11 criteria on national significance and management considerations.

Following a request for additional time to provide comments, NOAA reopened the public comment period through April 25, 2022. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will then determine if the Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary nomination will remain in the inventory for an additional five years.

For more information about the nomination or five-year review process, visit nominate.noaa.gov. ***(PR)***

SIS starts open enrollment for next school year

Saipan International School has opened general registration for its 2022-2023 school year. Class sizes are limited and spaces are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

SIS has a generous financial assistance program, helping many families afford its outstanding academic system. The Karen King Merit Scholarship is available to students with proven excellence in academics, athletics, or competitive activities. Applications are available in the office and are due by May 3, 2022 for the upcoming school year. Financial aid is also offered for students based on demonstrated need.

SIS offers an extensive university preparatory program in the high school with 15 Advanced Placement course offerings—the highest number in the CNMI. It is also the only school in the CNMI to offer the complete AP Capstone Diploma program. At the middle and elementary levels, SIS stresses mastery of fundamental skills within interactive experiences and its program has been validated through very strong results in the NWEA Measure of Academic Progress. In addition to core academics, SIS also offers a rich selection of elective courses that include extra support in a range of disciplines and enrichment opportunities such as our biannual trip to South America-Destino Peru, Speech and Debate, Fitness Classes, Music, Model United Nations, Escape Room Creation, Chess, Robotics, Art, SCUBA diving certification and much more.

"Many of our classes have very limited spots open," said SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder. "So it is important for interested families to contact the office as soon as possible. Thank you for considering SIS!"

To discover more about Saipan International School and enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year, call 288-9660 or visit us online at www.saipaninternationalschool.com. ***(PR)***

McDonald's names employees of the quarter

McDonald's of Saipan has recognized Jessa Marie De Jesus and Jay Achondo as its employees of the first quarter based on their ability to demonstrate behaviors that deliver a great experience for customers and their fellow employees.

"That means they are always looking for ways to make the experience special for every McDonald's customer; working with the team to deliver high standards; and having energy and enthusiasm when getting the job done," said a news release from McDonald's of Saipan. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jessa Marie De Jesus is recognized as the 2022 Employee of the First Quarter at the McDonald's Main Store on Middle Road.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jay Achondo is recognized as the 2022 Employee of the First Quarter at the McDonald's Garapan Store.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501399, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail Address: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 | Fax: (670) 322-7812

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: March 25, 2022 Closing Date: April 8, 2022

POSITION: AUDITOR I

EXAMINATION NO. OPA-22-001

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan. Applicants are required to complete the OPA Employment Application form.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950
Gualo Rai Center, Saipan, TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of March 25, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Resources Management International Corporation (RMIC)	01/28/2022 SMS-2022-015	Rock Crushing & Rock Quarry Operations	As Matuis, Saipan	Major Siting	Final Determination*
2. Alex Co., LTD dba Santa Rosa Tour	03/15/2022 SPIm-2022-020	Drydock	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 03/15/2022
3. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	03/15/2022 SPI-2022-021	Staging, Stockpiling & Maintenance	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
4. Shining Star, Inc. Shining Star Trading	03/23/2022 SMS-2022-022	Transfer of Interest	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
5. Infrastructure & Recovery Program (IRP)	03/23/2022 SSm-2022-023	Renovation of Sugar Dock Shelter	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement and Property Management
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 I www.marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
NMCRQS 22-001

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES
PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROJECT

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualification Statements" for Architectural/Engineering Services for the Center for Research Extension and Development project.

The request for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" packets are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing 10:00am Friday, February 25, 2022 or Electronic packet email request to anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

Pre-submittal conference is schedule for 09:00am-10:00am, March 07, 2022 CNMI Via Zoom.

Attendance is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

Qualification Statements Submissions
Due date and time: 10:00am, March 28, 2022 (CNMI)
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus

Paid for by 100% federal funds through the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant.

This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all Qualification Statements for any reason and waive any defect in said Qualification Statements, or cancel in part or its entirety this Request for Qualification Statements, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

MCS offers academic and extracurricular scholarships

Mount Carmel School will continue to offer academic scholarships, extracurricular scholarships, and other financial aid opportunities for the 2022-2023 school year.

Academic and extracurricular scholarships are geared to help families afford the cost of tuition. The scholarships are determined by a select committee of faculty and administrators who evaluate each applicant's character, résumé, involvement in school activities, and who exemplify a commitment to academic excellence. Each applicant is expected to also provide a letter of recommendation.

Online application forms for the academic and extracurricular scholarships will be available on the school website on May 2, 2022. Only complete applications will be considered prior to the deadline scheduled for May 31, 2022. Students must also be successfully enrolled for the 2022-2023 school year to be eligible for any of the school's financial aid opportunities.

To support students and families, the school's board of directors is exploring more ways to expand scholarships and financial aid for its students. The school is also exploring ways to expand scholarship funding, possibly through earmarking a portion of all Education Tax Credit revenue toward the school's scholarship and financial aid program.

In addition to scholarships and financial aid, the school will continue to offer other means of providing discounts for families. Families that enroll more than one child will receive discounts for each additional student: $600 off of tuition for the second child, $1,000 off of tuition for the third child, and $1,500 off of tuition for the fourth child.

The school has also continued to open their annual early bird registration discount as follows: For grades K4 - K5 registration is $75 per student (normally $100). For students in grades first through twelfth, the registration fee is $200 per student (normally $400.) The deadline for the Early Bird registration and fees is scheduled for May 02, 2022. ***(PR)***

AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
Bachelor's degree in Theology (may be foreign equiv). 60 Months of Experience as a Christian School Administrator. Read, Write and Speak Chinese is preferred.

Manage / supervise religious education programs at church or school. Oversees all aspects of curriculum, staffing, budgeting and administrative functions.

Send resume to: CALVARY INTERNATIONAL MISSION dba AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, Attn: Human Resources, PMB 466, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance. In compliance with the CNMI COVID-19 guidelines, Face-masks must be worn, social distancing will be enforced, and not more than ten (10) people will be allowed in the conference room during the course of the meeting.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
   a. Financial Report Update
IV. OLD BUSINESS
   a. CDBG-DR Updates
V. NEW BUSINESS
   a. CDBG-MIT Draft Action Plan and Draft Implementation Plan for Review and Approval
   b. Return and Reallocation of Credits for Isa Villas II
   c. Amendment of NMHC By-Laws
   d. Corporate Credit Card
VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

Juan T. Lizama
Attorney at law
P.O.Box 501508,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7220/483-2662
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOAQUIN CRUZ CABRERA, Deceased.	:	PROBATE CASE No. 22-0015 CV **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING/NOTICE TO CREDITORS** DATE: May 5, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **May 5, 2022**, at **10:00 a.m.** in the Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands in Susupe, Saipan, MP, James Duenas Cabrera will petition the court for Letters of Administration and for his appointment as Administrator of the Estate of Joaquin Cruz Cabrera, deceased. The attorney of record is Juan T. Lizama, whose postal address is at: P.O. Box 501508, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All interested persons may appear at this hearing.

All persons who has any claim against the estate, or against the decedent should file their claim with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court within 60 days after the first publication of this Notice of Hearing.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2022.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT
Superior Court of the NMI

Learn how to respond to RFPs

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinar on March 31, 2022 on Responding to Requests for Proposals. Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP.

The webinar will run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Link to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

To register, visit: https://www.guamptac.com/ ***(PR)***

MHS VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School students and staffs rehabilitated and repainted the Commissioner Joaquin S. Tudela Community Park curbs in San Vicente last March 21 as a part of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors Marianas Village Pride Campaign Adopt-A-Median program. Si yu'us ma'åse yan ghilisow to MHS students Kiana Aldan, Lufo Babauta, Lushawn Reyes, Easton Dela Cruz, and Tyrik Basa, and MHS staff Peter Deleon Guerrero, Jun Del Rosario, Emory Fitial, and Preston Basa for enhancing an important area on the island!

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950Tel.: (670) 236-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED UNDER 14 CFR PART 139

CPA-RFP-003-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (RFP), and other contract provisions, for proposals from individuals, professional firms, companies and/or corporations to provide instructional training services specific to airports pertaining to the requirements imposed by 14 CFR Part 139, and related federal airport and safety policies applicable to airfield operations contained in the Airport Certification Manual (ACM). The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225(a).

The successful proposer shall conduct instructional training services at the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) facility, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposals must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands no later than 4:30 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022. Proposals received after this date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. One original and three copies of each proposal shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked as 'Confidential' and each envelope must include the RFP number on the outside. It is the sole responsibility of a proposer to submit its proposal or proposals in a timely manner.

The Proposal Package is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning March 25, 2022. There is no charge for the proposal package.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ **Christopher S. Tenorio**
Executive Director
March 2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BIDS
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for ***Solid Waste Collection Services*** for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The ***bid package*** containing all the specifications, date of pre-bid meeting, and other requirements will be available at the Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building beginning ***March 02, 2022*** upon payment of ***$50.00*** in cash, cashiers check or credit card. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport until ***2:00 PM LOCAL TIME, Friday, April 01, 2022.*** Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked: ***"Bid for Solid Waste Collection Services at the Saipan International Airport, Project No. CPA-IFB-002-22".*** Bidders are to submit one (1) original and three (3) copies.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

_____
Date

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • PHONE: (670) 237-6500 • FAX: (670) 234-5962
WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES AIR-SIDE

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for grounds maintenance services of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning March 18, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Grounds Maintenance Services (Air-Side) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) Project No-CPA-RFP-004-22". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, APRIL 18, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

There will be no Pre-Proposal Conference but proposers will be allowed to do Site Visits by calling CPA Deputy Executive Director, Ed Mendiola at telephone numbers 237-6505 during working hours.

Written questions and/or clarifications regarding this project will be entertained up till April 11, 2022.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding this project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA, CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
March 14, 2022

Democratic Party of the NMI names interim officers

After three years at the helm of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands, Nola Kileleman Hix has stepped down as party chair. Hix's transformative leadership resulted in the election of 12 Democrats across the House and Senate.

"Our success story is one of the greatest in the CNMI, and probably one of the greatest in the country in 2021," said Hix. "The CNMI has been under Republican rule for more than three decades and to bounce back going from 0–13, with a majority house leadership and [Delegate Gregorio] Kilili [Sablan] declaring himself a Democrat—It's just remarkable. We are only as strong as a team, so I'd like to thank the party, our elected officials, and our supporters who voted and continue to strive for necessary change in our government."

The interim officers of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Because the work to elect Democrats and to provide trusted leadership continues, the Central Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands announced yesterday the election of new officers who will serve in an interim capacity until the next general membership meeting.

Interim chair Jonathan Pangelinan Del Rosario Cabrera has been a member of the party since 2010 and has served as party secretary twice. A 2012 CNMI Public School System Teacher of the Year, Cabrera has taught students at Saipan Southern High School and the Northern Marianas College and recently completed a Master of Divinity at Brite Divinity School (Fort Worth, Texas). Cabrera is proud to be the first queer person to lead a major political party in the CNMI.

Interim vice chair Luella Ichihara Marciano, M.Ed., began her tenure as secretary of the party in 2020. A retired PSS educator, Marciano ran for office in 2020 and has since remained a loyal member of the party. She serves on the Women's Committee, the Logistics Committee, and the Strategy Committee, all while remaining active in our community as a member of Refaluwasch for Good Governance and the Friends of San Isidro.

Interim secretary Melia K. Johnson has taught hula for over 30 years and has owned and managed her own dance company for over a decade and thus brings to this position cultural and business acumen. A wife and a mother of four, Johnson is committed to public service, to the flourishing of the arts in the community, and to improving the lives of all the people of the CNMI.

Interim treasurer Shawna Indalecio has over 15 years of experience in administrative and customer service, and in financial management. She has been actively engaged in various community-based and volunteer organizations and remains committed to her community and to public service. She looks forward to doing her part to better the CNMI and serve her people as a leader in the Democratic Party.

Today's NMI Democratic Party would not be what it is had it not been for the tireless efforts of Hix, vice chair Daniel Quitugua, secretary Luella Marciano, and treasurer Evan Yamagishi. Hix, Quitugua, and Yamagishi remain members in good standing of the Central Executive Committee, and they look forward to joining the party's efforts to elect democrats in November.

In other news, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) joined Hix at the Democratic National Committee's Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C., earlier this month. While there, Sablan met with key members of the DNC including chairman Jaime Harrison, Association of State Democratic Chairs/ASDC president Ken Martin, officers and members from the Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus, the Women's Caucus, and the Western Regional Caucus who pledged their support for Sablan and lieutenant governor candidate Rep. Leila Staffler's historic campaign.

Also at the DNC meeting was Michael White, who serves as the party's national committeeman. For the first time in DNC history, a committeeman from the territories was elected to two DNC councils, the Seniors and Climate Councils. White was also elected to an at-large position within the DNC's Western Caucus.

"All of the DNC's caucuses and councils have governing boards," said White. "Their responsibilities include planning meetings and working with DNC staff to spread the word and get the message out on matters of particular interest. For example, the AAPI caucus is very active in publicizing matters of interest to Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. The Seniors Council addresses issues of concern to older Americans, such as Social Security and Medicare. The regional caucuses, including the Western Regional Caucus, are less focused on issues, but have a greater voice in the governance of the DNC itself."

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands—"The People's Party"—invites those who are yearning for change to join us as volunteers and/or candidates. Together, we will challenge corruption and restore integrity and competence to our government.

For more information about the Democratic Party, visit the party website at www.nmidems.org, send an email to info@nmidems.org, or call (670) 484–DEMS (3367). ***(PR)***

CGC employees complete Basic Life Saving training

Sixteen employees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center completed on March 2 and 4 the American Heart Association's Basic Life Support training that taught participants how to save a life in an emergency

The training was facilitated by Priority Care Services, and taught participants how to recognize life-threatening emergencies, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the AHA Chain of Survival, multi-rescuer resuscitation, how to relieve foreign-body airway obstructions, and other vital basic cardiovascular life support skills.

Participants included employees from the Behavioral Health Response Program, Disaster Response Program, the CNMI Suicide Prevention Program, and other Community Guidance Center employees.

As a result of this training, CGC employees learned lifesaving strategies that can be utilized to improve overall patient care. Medical emergencies can happen to anyone, at any time, and range in severity from mild to life-threatening.

Trained employees can provide high quality CPR in the event of an emergency, leading to better treatment outcomes for clients. The strategies taught in the BLS training are applicable whether in the workplace or out in the community, and will provide temporary assistance to the individual in distress until additional help arrives. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Community Guidance Center staff pose with Priority Care assistant instructors after completing the American Heart Association's Basic Life Support Training.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Community Guidance Center staff pose with Priority Care assistant instructors after completing the American Heart Association's Basic Life Support Training.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Nelly Imperial Sanchez
August 30,1940 - March 19, 2022
wife of Romeo Rivera Sanchez
mother of Ricky & Velma Ann,
Nympha & Joe, Rufo & Jennifer,
and Nancy & Ravi "Vinny" and
grandmother of Jason Romeo &
Jaden Hedwig, Rebekah Grace,
Jonathan Thomas & Joshua
Matthew, Alicia Nicole, Emma Joy,
Katelyn Noel & Madison Lindsay,
and Roshan Ravindra, and special
friend of Leonora Liwanag.
Memorial Service at 9am at
Marianas Baptist Church, Dandan
(across Shell Gas Station) on
Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Off The Wall

Man pleads guilty to taking 2 baby bears from their den

AP

This undated photo provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife shows two rescued bear cubs.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A Northern California man who admitted to taking two bear cubs from their den and notified officials after he was unable to care for them pleaded guilty to possession of a prohibited species, wildlife officials said.

Cody Dylon Setzer, 29, and a co-worker who has not been identified and cooperated with authorities took the month-old bears from their den in a tree that had fallen across a forest road, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said Tuesday.

Setzer contacted wildlife officers on March 9, 2019, and told them he had found the baby bears along Highway 263 north of Yreka in Siskiyou County, the department said.

But wildlife officers became suspicious of his story after they went out to the site and found no bear tracks or habitat.

"Bear cubs are 100% dependent upon the sow and if they had been wondering on their own they wouldn't have survived," said Capt. Patrick Foy of the department's law enforcement division.

Setzer's co-worker at a timber management company confessed to wildlife offices and cooperated with the investigation, Foy said.

"The other person literally brought them back to the den site," he said.

Library wants your banned books

MATINICUS ISLAND, Maine (AP)—There's an "Island of Misfit Toys" in the popular holiday classic. Now there's an island for unwanted and banned books, too.

The tiny library on Matinicus Island 22 miles (35 kilometers) off the Maine coast is on a mission to fill its shelves with books that have fallen out of favor elsewhere.

From "And Tango Makes Three," the story of two male penguins that raised a chick together, to classics like "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood and "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck, all books are welcome including those that are being banned or canceled in other parts of the country.

Eva Murray recently returned from a trip to the mainland with a bunch of books including "And Tango Makes Three," which the American Library Association says is one of the most banned books in the country.

"We are buying banned books in order to publicly push back against the impetus to ban books. To say, 'If you don't want it in your library, we want it in ours,'" Murray told the Bangor Daily News.

For years, islanders just traded books among themselves, but they decided to create a grassroots library in 2016 in a donated storage shed. It expanded in 2020 to add a second shed for a children's library with help from a grant from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation.

There's no librarian. Patrons borrow books using the honor system. Books are checked out by writing the book's name in a notebook.

As the library grew, the island started to become the bookish equivalent of the "Island of Misfit Toys," the place where unwanted toys reside in the Christmas classic, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Alabama man charged in theft of 70-ton crane

CLANTON, Ala. (AP)—An Alabama man who called a wrecker service asking to have a 70-ton crane pulled out of the woods is now charged with stealing the heavy machinery, sheriff's officials said.

The owner of a towing service contacted the Chilton County Sheriff's Office on Monday, saying the man had called claiming someone gave him the crane, and he wanted it removed so he could sell it for scrap, the agency said in a statement.

The wrecker service owner recalled moving the same crane a few years before and contacted its owner, who denied having given it away. The towing operator then called law enforcement. The man who wanted the crane moved fled before officers arrived, driving the rig into a ditch where it became stuck.

The 26-year-old Clanton man was arrested Tuesday on a probation violation and first-degree theft charges. Court records didn't include the name of a defense attorney who could speak on his behalf.

"We have worked a lot of theft cases over the years, but this one definitely takes first place in the heavyweight category," Sheriff John Shearon's office said in a statement, thanking the wrecker service.

Science & Technology

Great Barrier Reef suffers widespread coral bleaching

(J. SUMERLING/GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY VIA AP)

n this photo provided by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority small fish school in waters of Ribbon Reef No 10 near Cairns, Australia, Sept. 12, 2017. Australia's Great Barrier Reef is suffering widespread and severe coral bleaching due to high ocean temperatures two years after a mass bleaching event, a government agency said on Friday, March 18, 2022.

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's Great Barrier Reef is suffering widespread and severe coral bleaching due to high ocean temperatures two years after a mass bleaching event, a government agency said on Friday.

The report by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority, which manages the world's largest coral reef ecosystem, comes three days before a United Nations delegation is due to assess whether the reef's World Heritage listing should be downgraded due to the ravages of climate change.

"Weather patterns over the next few weeks will be critical in determining the overall extent and severity of coral bleaching across the Marine Park," the authority said.

"Bleaching has been detected across the Marine Park—it is widespread but variable, across multiple regions, ranging in impact from minor to severe," the authority added.

The reef has suffered significantly from coral bleaching caused by unusually warm ocean temperatures in 2016, 2017 and 2020. The previous bleaching damaged two-thirds of the coral.

TECH Q&A

How to stop deleted iPhone e-mails from coming back

Q: I can't seem to permanently delete e-mails on my iPhone 13. After I delete the e-mails, they come back to my inbox later. This happens even if, after deleting the e-mails, I empty the trash folder. Even e-mails that I move to the junk folder come back to the inbox. How can I fix this?

A: Your phone isn't communicating properly with your e-mail provider's server. As a result, when you delete a message, it disappears from the inbox on your phone but remains in the inbox on the mail server. Then, each time your phone retrieves new messages from the server, the e-mails you thought you had deleted show up in your inbox again.

To correct this, you need to set your phone so that it tells the mail server which e-mails you have chosen to delete. The server will then remove the deleted messages from its inbox and send them to its own trash or junk folders. And the next time you download new mail from the server, the deleted e-mails won't reappear in your phone's inbox.

To do that, go to your iPhone's Settings, click on Mail and then click on "accounts." On the next screen, click on your e-mail account and you'll see a list of all the features associated with that account, such as mail, contacts, calendars and notes. At the top of the screen, click on your e-mail address, and on the following screen click "advanced."

On the next screen, under "mailbox behaviors" click "deleted mailbox." You'll see two lists: "On my phone," which contains only a "trash" mailbox, and "On the server," which contains several mailboxes, including "trash."

Be sure that "trash" on the server is checked, and that "trash" on the phone is not checked. Go back two screens to the "account" page and click "done" at the upper right corner.

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

Rick Astley celebrates his 1987 debut album with reissue

NEW YORK (AP)—Most pop stars take some time before they hit the big time, putting out a few albums before one sticks. With Rick Astley, it took just his first song.

"With me, it's like, song one—Boom! No.1 all over the world," he says via Zoom. "I was just trying to write something that you could sing along to in the chorus."

That song was "Never Gonna Give You Up"—on his 1987 multi-platinum debut album "Whenever You Need Somebody"—that went from radio earworm to internet prank sensation.

Astley

It's been 35 years since Astley's debut and BMG is marking the anniversary in May with a two-CD set and digital release that boasts the remastered original album plus B-sides, remixes and Astley's own reimagined versions of the album's original singles.

Astley was only 20 and 21 while recording "Whenever You Need Somebody" with the songwriting and record production trio known as Stock Aitken Waterman, who had crafted songs for Bananarama and Dead or Alive.

"I was just happy to be in a professional recording studio, making noises with guys who were having hit records," says Astley, who came from a small town in the north of England. He knew nothing about the recording process. "I was inexperienced, I guess, and naïve."

"Never Gonna Give You Up" spent two weeks at No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 and "Together Forever" spent a week atop the same chart. The songs "It Would Take A Strong Strong Man" and "She Wants To Dance With Me" also made it into the top 10. Listening to it again, the album fits today's '80s-vibing, dance soundscape very well.

He would make more albums, leave the business for many years and then reemerge with the strong albums "50" in 2016 and "Beautiful Life" in 2018, dogged by rick-rolling—when a promised link on a website turns out instead to be an Astley video—but making his peace with it.

Shortly after the anniversary release of his debut album, Astley will join New Kids on the Block, Salt-N-Pepa, and En Vogue for the 57-date "Mixtape 2022" U.S. arena tour. He credits "Whenever You Need Somebody" for all of it, for basically making his career.

"The overwhelming thing is just gratitude. If I'm honest, it's simply that. I've had a really nice, comfortable existence because I got to make a pop record in 1987."

Dutch publisher pulls Anne Frank betrayal book amid critique

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The publisher of a new and controversial work about Anne Frank is pulling the book after a group of Dutch historians released an in-depth criticism of its "most likely scenario" of who betrayed the Jewish teenage diarist and her family in German-occupied Amsterdam during World War II.

Meanwhile, the U.S. publisher of "The Betrayal of Anne Frank: A Cold Case Investigation" announced Wednesday that it will continue to sell the book.

The cold case team's research, published early this year in a book by Canadian academic and author Rosemary Sullivan, immediately drew criticism in the Netherlands.

In a 69-page written "refutation," six historians and academics describe the cold case team's findings as "a shaky house of cards." The book's Dutch publisher, Ambo Anthos, repeated an earlier apology and announced Tuesday night it was withdrawing "The Betrayal of Anne Frank."

The book alleged that the person who revealed the location of the Frank family's secret annex hiding place was likely a prominent Jewish notary, Arnold van den Bergh, who disclosed the location in an Amsterdam canalside building to the German occupiers to save his own family from deportation and death in Nazi concentration camps.

The Dutch historians reviewed the team's work and concluded the "accusation does not hold water."

The historians said the book "displays a distinct pattern in which assumptions are made by the CCT (Cold Case Team), held to be true a moment later, and then used as a building block for the next step in the train of logic. This makes the entire book a shaky house of cards, because if any single step turns out to be wrong, the cards above also collapse."

In response, the cold case team's leader, Pieter van Twisk, told Dutch broadcaster NOS the historians' work was "very detailed and extremely solid" and said it "gives us a number of things to think about, but for the time being I do not see that Van den Bergh can be definitively removed as the main suspect."

Since the book's publication in January, the team has published detailed reactions to criticism of its work on its website.

Dutch filmmaker Thijs Bayens, who had the idea to put together the cold case team, conceded in January that the team did not have 100% certainty about Van den Bergh.

"There is no smoking gun because betrayal is circumstantial," Bayens told The Associated Press at the time.

Not all publishers were dropping the book. In the U.S., HarperCollins Publishers issued a statement saying it stands by "The Betrayal of Anne Frank," adding that "While we recognize there has been some criticism to the findings, the investigation was done with respect and the utmost care for an extremely sensitive topic."

The Frank family and four other Jews hid in the annex, which was reached by a secret staircase hidden behind a bookcase, from July 1942 until they were discovered in August 1944 and deported to concentration camps.

Anne and her sister died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Anne was 15. Only Anne's father, Otto Frank, survived the Holocaust. He published her diary after WWII and it quickly became an enduring symbol of loss and resilience, read by millions around the world.

Monuments Men group bets on playing cards to find lost art

(AP PHOTO/LM OTERO)

Anna Bottinelli, president of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art, displays playing cards at the organization's office in Dallas, Monday, March 21, 2022.

DALLAS (AP)—A group dedicated to finishing the work of World War II's Monuments Men is betting on a deck of playing cards—and reward money—to help find missing works of art taken by the Nazis.

Inspired by the U.S. military's history of creating playing cards related to missions, the Dallas-based Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art on Wednesday announced the creation of the deck focusing on works—including paintings, sculptures and reliquaries—they believe still exist.

"What is needed is to raise awareness about what is missing," said Anna Bottinelli, the foundation's president. "Because you might know of a friend who has a beautiful painting on the wall and you don't even question that that painting belongs to someone else."

The group, which is offering rewards of up to $25,000 for information leading to the recovery of each cultural object featured in the deck, will highlight a few of the cards each week on their social media.

Bottinelli said the foundation worked with museums, law enforcement and owners of lost art as they narrowed down which works to feature, which include those by Vincent van Gogh, Caravaggio and Claude Monet.

One, a pastel by Edgar Degas titled "Portrait of Mlle. Gabrielle Diot" that was taken by the Nazis from a home in France in 1940, is known to have been sold in the mid-1970s to an unknown Swiss collector.

"Many of these have resurfaced in the recent past—even as late as 2008—in auctions," Bottinelli said.

The deck, being sold through the foundation and the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, is a nod to a U.S. military tradition that includes a deck featuring the most-wanted fugitives from the Iraq War and one from WWII designed to help soldiers identify aircrafts, Bottinelli said.

FBI Special Agent Christopher McKeogh, a New York-based member of the agency's Art Crime Team, said he thinks there's a misconception that because it's been nearly 80 years since the end of the war, that most of the missing art has been found.

"There's still a lot of artwork to still be on the lookout for," McKeogh said, noting that the Nazi's looting was "on a scale that is really hard to comprehend."

Man became abusive amid wife's fight with cancer

DEAR ABBY: I have wanted to write you for years, but my ex-husband thought it was "ridiculous." We were married 29 years and rarely argued, which led me to believe we had a great marriage. Then, 10 years ago, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I had a mastectomy and was on chemotherapy for a year.

Shortly after the mastectomy we went on vacation, and my husband began verbally abusing me. He even slapped me. When the chemo caused me to lose my appetite, he told me if I wasn't going to eat I shouldn't bother coming to dinner because he didn't like me being the one who got all the attention. Believe me, I was not seeking attention. Nine years ago he announced he was filing for divorce because my health was a deal-breaker. ("In sickness and in health" was off the table.) The one time I needed his support, I found myself ALONE.

I looked up statistics and saw that 80% of men walk out when their wife is ill. It made me sick. The entire time I was going through hell, he was on dating sites looking for a healthy partner, ignoring the pain and suffering I was experiencing with not a care in the world other than preventing his various girlfriends from knowing about each other.

My advice to other women is: Be sure you put aside a nest egg as insurance to get you through life without your "partner." I was married for 29 years to a complete stranger—a selfish jerk of a man—and I am determined to keep going, if only to spite him.

SURVIVOR IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SURVIVOR: Your suggestion to put money aside in case of emergencies is a good one for all women, not just those who might be diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. However, I'm pretty sure the statistic you quoted about the number of men who leave their wives when the going gets tough may be off the mark. Although desertion has been known to happen, nowhere near 80% of men are selfish, abusive cads like the one you married. While I don't blame you for being angry, for your own sake, please don't let "spite" be your only reason for living. What a waste of time that would be.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I feel fortunate to be the mother of two healthy children. At times, I encounter other moms whose children have severe food allergies or special needs. I'm afraid I say the wrong thing when addressing them.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Parenthood is a challenge, and for some, it's more challenging than for others. I sympathize with their additional challenges. However, when I said it, they were offended. I lost a close friend because of it. What's an appropriate response when this situation comes up?

SPEECHLESS IN ARIZONA

DEAR SPEECHLESS: Parents of children with special needs are not looking for sympathy. When you are told about a child's food allergy, thank the mother for alerting you, and assure her that when her child is with you, you will be extra careful to ensure he or she is safe.

Ayton, Booker help Suns rally past trash-taking Timberwolves

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Deandre Ayton scored a career-high 35 points and had 14 rebounds, Devin Booker had 22 of his 28 points in the second half and the Phoenix Suns surged past the trash-talking Minnesota Timberwolves 125-116 on Wednesday night.

Landry Shamet scored 10 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter to help fuel the rally and bring the NBA-leading Suns within one win — or Memphis loss — of wrapping up home-court advantage for the entire playoffs.

The Suns have a nine-game lead with nine games left. They have won six straight, 18 of 22 and are 59-14 overall and 29-6 on the road.

Anthony Edwards scored 19 points for Minnesota, and Karl-Anthony Towns had 15 points and 11 rebounds — but had only three points and three rebounds in the second half after he woke up the Suns with his trash-talking late the first.

The Timberwolves dropped 1 1/2 games behind Denver for the No. 6 seed that avoids the play-in tournament. Minnesota has its first two-game losing streak since Feb. 9-11.

Warriors 118, Heat 104

In Miami, Jordan Poole scored 30 points and short-handed Golden State scored the first 19 points of the second half and beat Miami.

Damion Lee, Jonathan Kuminga and Andrew Wiggins each scored 22 points for the Warriors. The Warriors were already without Stephen Curry because of a sprained left foot and Andre Iguodala with low back tightness, plus gave Draymond Green, Otto Porter Jr. and Klay Thompson the night off for injury management.

Kyle Lowry scored 26 points, Bam Adebayo had 25, Jimmy Butler finished with 20 and Duncan Robinson had 13 for the Heat.

Celtics 125, Jazz 97

In Boston, Jayson Tatum scored 11 of his 26 points during Boston's nearly perfect first quarter to help the Celtics roll past Utah.

Jaylen Brown also had 26 points, and Marcus Smart had a career-high 13 assists. Boston won its fifth straight victory to improve its chances for one of the Eastern Conference's top four seeds.

Donovan Mitchell scored 37 points for the Jazz. Utah has lost consecutive games for the first time since the end of January, a span of 21 games.

Grizzlies 132, Nets 120

In Memphis, Tenn., Desmond Bane scored 23 points, including nine straight as Memphis rebuilt its lead in the fourth quarter, and the Grizzlies beat Kyrie Irving and Brooklyn.

Irving scored 43 points and Kevin Durant had 35 points and 11 rebounds. Still banned from playing home games because of a New York City vaccine mandate, Irving was on the court for the first time since scoring 60 points at Orlando eight days earlier. But that arrangement for Irving, who is unvaccinated against COVID-19, is coming to an end. New York City Mayor Eric Adams is set to lift the mandate for athletes and performers.

AP

Phoenix Suns center Deandre Ayton dunks against the Minnesota Timberwolves during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 23, 2022, in Minneapolis.

Memphis was the short-handed home team this time with leading scorer Ja Morant sidelined because of right knee soreness.

Knicks 121, Hornets 105

In Charlotte, N.C., RJ Barrett scored 30 points and New York made 20 3-pointers to beat Charlotte, snapping the Hornets' five-game winning streak.

Obi Toppin had 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Alec Bunks added 17 points for the Knicks. They have won three of five. Playing without Julius Randle, who sat out with right quadriceps tendon soreness, the Knicks shot 20 of 45 from beyond the arc.

LaMelo Ball had 32 points and nine rebounds for Charlotte.

Mavericks 110, Rockets 91

In Dallas, Jalen Brunson scored 28 points, Spencer Dinwiddie added 26 with Luka Doncic resting a sore right ankle and Dallas overwhelmed Houston in the second half.

Dallas pulled even with Utah at 45-28 for the fourth seed and home-court advantage in the first round of the Western Conference playoffs. The Jazz, who lost 125-97 at Boston, hold the tiebreaker over the Mavericks. They play Sunday in Dallas.

Rookie Alperen Sengun had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Rockets. They are an NBA-worst 18-55.

Kings 110, Pacerts 109

In Indianapolis, Damian Jones' tip-in with less than a second left lifted Sacramento past Indiana.

Trey Lyles missed a 3-pointer and Jones tipped in the rebound with 0.2 seconds remaining.

Davion Mitchell scored 25 points, and Chimezie Metu had a career-high 22 for the Kings.

Buddy Hield led the Pacers with 25 points.

Pistons 122, Hawks 101

In Detroit, Jeremi Grant scored 21 points and slumping Detroit routed Atlanta in its biggest margin of victory of the season.

Cade Cunningham added 17 points and eight assists for Detroit. The Pistons led by 29 points while winning for the second time in eight games.

Trae Young had 21 points and nine assists for Atlanta.

Thunder 119, Magic 102

In Oklahoma City, Theo Maledon scored 17 of his season-high 25 points in the fourth quarter and Oklahoma City beat Orlando to snap a 10-game skid.

Tre Mann and Isaiah Roby each scored 21 for the Thunder in a matchup between two of the NBA's worst teams.

Chuma Okeke scored 19 points for Orlando.

Story, Castellanos among MLB's newest $100 million men

PHOENIX (AP)—Trevor Story and Nick Castellanos are among the newest $100 million men during a Major League Baseball offseason full of big contracts.

There's been a robust market for the sport's star players, even with a 99-day lockout that froze negotiations from December until mid-March.

Story and Castellanos are among 15 players who have signed deals worth $100 million or more since November, a group that includes Corey Seager, Wander Franco, Kris Bryant, Marcus Semien, Matt Olson, Freddie Freeman, Javier Báez, José Berríos, Max Scherzer, Robbie Ray, Kevin Gausman, Carlos Correa and Byron Buxton.

The big contracts are certainly good news for the players receiving them, but it remains to be seen whether those deals boost the league's overall average salary, which has declined in recent years. During the lockout, one of the union's main goals was to increase salaries for the sport's middle-class and younger players.

Story was introduced on Wednesday in Florida now that his $140 million, six-year deal with the Red Sox is official. Castellanos got a $100 million, five-year contract from the Phillies after a career season in Cincinnati.

The Red Sox were an unlikely suitor for Story — a two-time All-Star — considering that they already have a four-time All-Star at shortstop.

But Story agreed to move to second base, providing stability at a position where Boston has lacked it since Dustin Pedroia was injured in 2017. And if Xander Bogaerts chooses to opt out of his contract at the end of the season, Story gives the Red Sox a long-term solution at shortstop.

The Phillies hope Castellanos can add to a souped-up offense and help the franchise snap an NL-worst, 10-year postseason drought.

Castellanos got a $100 million, five-year contract from the Phillies after a career season in Cincinnati. He batted .309 with 34 homers, 100 RBIs and a .939 OPS last year for the Reds, making his first All-Star team and winning a Silver Slugger Award. He is a .278 career hitter with 168 home runs, 594 RBIs and an .814 OPS in nine major league seasons with the Detroit Tigers, Chicago Cubs and Reds.

Ryan eager for new start in Indy after 14 seasons in Atlanta

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP SPORTS WRITER

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Matt Ryan speaks during a press conference at the NFL team's practice facility in Indianapolis, Tuesday, March 22, 2022 AP

Matt Ryan was ready for a change and Indianapolis seemed like the perfect place to make a title run.

The 14-year NFL veteran and 2016 league MVP left Atlanta and arrived at his new team complex Tuesday, hoping to become the third straight veteran quarterback to win a Super Bowl in his first season with a new team.

"Yeah, it looks really good what Matthew Stafford did in Los Angles last year, making that transition work so well, and what Tom (Brady) did, I saw that first-hand in the division the year before," Ryan said. "I hope we can ride that trend that's been going on and make it work for us."

The Colts certainly believe he can after giving up a third-round pick, No. 82 overall, to acquire Ryan on Monday.

They're also hoping the four-time Pro Bowler who led Atlanta to its second Super Bowl appearance following the 2016 season can stabilize a position that's been in a state of flux. Ryan is expected to become Indy's sixth different opening-day starter in six years this fall.

Ryan has been down this path before.

In 2008, the 23-year-old rookie from Boston College went to the Falcons with expectations of rescuing a franchise reeling from coach Bobby Petrino's resignation after just 13 games and the imprisonment of quarterback Michael Vick for running a dogfighting ring.

Ryan responded by leading Atlanta to the playoffs for the first time in four years, earning the nickname "Matty Ice" and becoming the best quarterback in franchise history. At times, it appeared Ryan and the Falcons could never part.

But the organization's decision last week to publicly pursue Deshaun Watson as Ryan's replacement and the ensuing decision to rebuild made Ryan rethink where he wanted to play. And after a Saturday night video conference with Colts general manager Chris Ballard, coach Frank Reich, offensive coordinator Marcus Brady and others, Ryan was convinced it was time for a change.

"At first I didn't know if we were going to be forced into a trade," he said, explaining how Reich's empathy for changing teams after a long career in one place played a key role. "Ultimately, it came down to a decision between staying in Atlanta or coming to Indianapolis. The time was right for me and I felt like I needed to do it."

He showed no regrets, thanking the Falcons for helping him become a model of consistency on the field, developing relationships he still cherishes and sharing so many memorable moments.

Now he's joining a team with Super Bowl aspirations. The Colts lost in the wild-card round following the 2020 season and looked like a shoo-in to make the postseason last season until losing its final two games.

Ryan likes Indy's cast — a strong offensive line with three returning starters and capable in-house replacements for another spot, NFL rushing champ Jonathan Taylor, emerging receiver Michael Pittman Jr. and a strong defense that added veteran pass-rusher Yannick Ngakoue last week.

And the Colts believe Ryan is the missing piece.

"We got our guy!!!" Pittman posted on Twitter in all caps following Monday's announcement.

Indy also has been down this path since Andrew Luck abruptly announced his retirement in 2019.

Two years ago, they signed veteran Philip Rivers who had a solid season in his only year with the Colts. He retired in January 2021. Last March, Indy acquired Carson Wentz in a deal with Philadelphia with the belief he could become their long-term franchise quarterback. Instead, he was dealt to Washington two weeks ago.

The biggest question surrounding the 36-year-old Ryan is how much longer he will play with two years left on his current contract?

"It's funny, I played in a division where it was Tom Brady, Drew Brees and then me at one point and I was like 35," he said. "I was like, 'I feel young. Tom's 43 and Drew's 41 but I feel good.' I really do. My body feels really great. I feel like I've gotten myself into a spot where I know how to train. But I feel great. I don't feel like an old man."

The Colts don't see an old man, either. Instead, they see someone who can accomplish something only Peyton Manning has and bring the Lombardi Trophy to Indianapolis.

"I was texting with some of the guys yesterday and every one of their text messages, their first one was about winning. That's really unique," Ryan said before donning his familiar No. 2, only in blue and white. "I realize I'm one part of this wheel and I need to do my job and pull my weight, but it's a pretty strong wheel."

Sacked: Mayfield waits as Browns look to trade unwanted QB

CLEVELAND (AP)— Baker Mayfield was once the No. 1 overall draft pick. He's not anyone's choice at the moment.

He's a quarterback without a team.

Cleveland's starter the past four seasons, Mayfield lost his job last week when the Browns pulled off a trade that shook the NFL by acquiring Deshaun Watson, a three-time Pro Bowler in Houston accused of sexual assault by 22 women.

With Watson due to arrive any day to take over as Cleveland's franchise QB, Mayfield, who requested a trade last week after feeling betrayed by the Browns, is leaving.

When and where he's going is still to be determined.

The quarterback market has dried up this week, with several trades and free agent signings eliminating possible landing spots for Mayfield, who is looking to resurrect his career after a dreadful 2021 season.

It's an astonishing fall for Mayfield, the top pick in 2018 who led the Browns to the playoffs in 2020 and seemed to have finally solved the franchise's two-decade-long search for a franchise quarterback.

He was the face of Cleveland, toast of the town. The Progressive insurance commercials with him and his wife, Emily, living inside FirstEnergy Stadium were a hit.

Even just a week ago, Mayfield still seemed in position to play a fifth season in Cleveland before Watson was persuaded to waive his no-trade clause when the Browns gave him a record $230 million fully guaranteed contract.

Mayfield went from under center to out the door — in an instant.

After the Watson trade was announced, Mayfield needed a new football home, and Indianapolis appeared to be a possibility for Mayfield. But the Colts weren't interested and traded for Atlanta veteran Matt Ryan. The Falcons then signed free agent Marcus Mariota, closing the door on another potential suitor for Mayfield.

The New Orleans Saints decided to re-sign Jameis Winston, wiping out another option for Mayfield.

Seattle remains a potential destination for Mayfield. But the Seahawks, who are starting anew after recently dealing Russell Wilson to Denver, want to try to Drew Lock first and perhaps draft a young QB to back him up.

It's all left Mayfield out.

He is due to make $18.8 million next season, and his contract makes it nearly impossible for the Browns to find a trade partner. There isn't a team willing to pay that hefty price for a backup quarterback, never mind one coming off shoulder surgery, a lousy season and with an image problem.

There's the possibility Cleveland might have to pay a big chunk of Mayfield's salary or throw in a draft pick just to be rid of him.

At this point, a quick separation would be ideal for both sides.

Unfortunately, this could drag on for a while.

A positive for Mayfield, as has been emphasized multiple times over the past week, is that the quarterback roulette wheel spins often and he'll get another chance somewhere — eventually. Things happen. Depth charts at quarterback are frequently changing due to injuries, trades and performance.

He'll get another chance to start somewhere. But before that, Mayfield may have to swallow hard and be someone's backup.

Mayfield has shown he's a capable QB and sometimes better than that. He is 29-30 as a starter and passed for more than 3,000 yards in each season. He followed a record-setting rookie season with a clunker in Year 2, but he worked on his game, bounced back and played well in 2020.

Last year went sideways for Mayfield and the Browns after the 26-year-old suffered a torn labrum in his left shoulder in Week 2. Mayfield gutted it out and played hurt. But in doing so, he exposed several on-field shortcomings — his size, decision-making and an inability to avoid pressure.

Wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr.'s messy exit briefly revived Mayfield. But it wasn't long before he was forcing passes into double coverage and taking sacks he couldn't avoid.

There was also a major disconnection with coach Kevin Stefanski. Mayfield publicly questioned Stefanski's play-calling, and even if he had valid reasons for the criticism, it was a bad look for him and the team. It also underscored a troubled relationship between quarterback and coach.

Mayfield's image may need as much of a makeover as his mechanics.

A two-time college walk-on who went on to win the 2017 Heisman Trophy while playing for Oklahoma, he's got to prove himself all over again.

It won't be in Cleveland.

Knights, Hilitai 1 draw 1st blood MS boys caging start

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Hopwood 1 player shoots free throws in their game against Saipan Community School at the start of the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2021-2022 last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Mount Carmel School and Hopwood Middle School debuted with wins after drubbing separate foes at the start of the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2021-2022 last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Knights buried Dandan Middle School with an avalanche of points, 27-11, to start their 2021-2022 campaign on the right foot. MCS was led by the 9 points of Leonard Regalado and the 8 points of Kern Han. Kian Helgen paced Dandan with 5 points.

In the other completed game in the Wednesday kickoff, Hopwood Middle School 1 defeated Saipan Community School, 15-10. It was a nip-and-tick first half with the Hiltais only taking a 1-point lead, 9-8, as Paul Lizama made a 3-pointer to end the period's scoring.

Hopwood went on a scoring spree in the second half to leave SCS biting their dust as three different players scored and only Elijah He managed to put the ball through the hoop for the Guardians. Jerik Javier and Rewilifon Soliman led Hopwood with 4 markers apiece, while He scored 5 points to lead SCS.

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School and Hopwood 2 scored forfeit wins after their opponents Chacha Oceanview Middle School and Saipan International School, respectively, didn't show up.

IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2021-2022 is being organized by the Public School System Athletic Program with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation.

MCS 27 – Regalado 9, Han 8, Mercado 7, Pangelinan 2.

DMS 11 – Helgen 5, Hefnejas 3, Lagore 2, Paulino 2.

Hopwood 1 15 – Javier 4, Soliman 4, Manauleg 3, Taichan 2, Omelau 2.

SCS 10 – He 5, Camacho 3, Palacios 2.

Scoring by halves: 9-8, 15-10.

Saipan Marathon early bird deadline today

The deadline for early bird registration for Saipan Marathon 2022 half-marathon, 10K, and 5K is today, March 25, at 11:59pm ChST. The event, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority in partnership with Northern Marianas Athletics, is slated for April 9, 2022, in The Marianas.

Registration is open at www.raceroster.com and fees are $45 for all three courses for both international and resident participants. Special rates for CNMI students only with a valid student i.d. are$30 for the 10K and 5K. Registration will increase $10 after todayy's deadline, and registration closes on April 1, 2022.

All participants will receive a finisher's T-shirt, a certificate of completion via email, and entry to the awards banquet at 5pm on race day.

"Saipan Marathon is a short two and half weeks away, so we strongly encourage everyone to register for the best rates by this Friday," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "With the gradual resumption of tourism, we're looking forward to rebooting this annual signature event and are looking forward to welcoming our home athletes and visitors back for a great race."

The event is sponsored byHotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. In-kind contributors are Century Hotel, Serenity Hotel, and Aqua Resort Club Saipan. Aid stations will be provided by Saipan World Resort, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Triathlon Association of the CNMI, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Coral Ocean Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Supporters are Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Public Works, American Memorial Park, Division of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Div. of Parks & Recreation, and Marianas Health Services.

The race follows some of Saipan's most scenic roadways, starting and ending at Micro Beach and American Memorial Parkand providing stunning views of the azure blue lagoon along the Beach Rd. Race packet pick-up will be available on April 8, 2022, from 5pm to 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park amphitheater. Start time on April 9 is 5:45am for the half-marathon, 6am for the 10K, and 6:10am for the 5K.

Awards will be presented to the top three overall male and female finishers for the Half Marathon, 10K and 5K. In addition, only the 1stplace male and female finishers in their respective age division category will receive an award. There will be no age divisions for the 5K Run.

For more information, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA Community Projects Coordinator EdDiaz at 1.670.664.3210 or ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

LUCKY

From Page 24

the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 qualifier.

"All the ladies played strong and the games were pretty evenly matched, so it came down to communication with our partners, placement of balls, and knowing how to use the elements (sun and wind) in your favor. Chenny and I have partnered up multiple times over the years. We know how to hype each other up as well as calm each other. I feel like we're playing better when we're having fun (you'll usually catch us laughing at ourselves or each other even during plays). We also have learned to keep in constant communication, figuring how to better support one another during plays, whether to block or cover more of the court," she said.

Lizama echoed Yamada when she said the two playing together for so long was Lucky Charms' edge in the one-day tournament.

"Communication and remaining focused during each play [were the keys]. Toni and I have been beach volleyball partners for years. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses. We analyze each play and make quick adjustments to win points," she said.

Yamada dedicated the win to Lizama and her partner, Ben. "They're always pushing me to do better, play, and work harder on and off the court, as well as to the volleyball community for keeping volleyball alive!"

Lizama also thanked Yamada for helping them finish first place in the For The Luck of Volleyball tourney.

"Humbly dedicating the win to myself, Toni, and the Pacific Mini Games beach volleyball crew. After a 2-3 years' break from playing competitively, it was a challenge getting back into it. What helped me the most were the weekly beach volleyball training and workouts by Jocelyn Itibus," she said.

Asked if they'll be throwing their hats in this year's Mini Games, Yamada and Lizama had different answers.

"I know Chenny definitely is! I'm still a little iffy, I don't feel like I, personally, am mentally or physically ready for the level of competition that will be held, but I do continue to play and show up to trainings when I can. I feel like representing the CNMI is always an amazing opportunity," said Yamada.

"I am both excited and nervous as this will be my first Mini Games to play in," said Lizama.

Results of the men's division of the NMIVA-organized For the Luck of Volleyball beach tournament will be reported in next week's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

FRANCES

From Page 24

Frances Sablan credited familiarity with the Kingfisher Golf Links as the reason she emerged victorious in the February tournament.

"I was able to make time to play golf at Kingfisher more often. So definitely the practice made a big difference! Like the saying goes, 'practice makes perfect!'" she said.

The February ace also dedicated her win to her husband, Ed.

"To my golf practice partner, supporter, encourager, motivator, and financer, thank you!"

She also said it was an almost perfect day for playing golf last Feb. 13. "Weather was nice, although windy, but the sun was out!"

Frances Sablan, who now joins January ace Edward C. Sablan as early qualifiers for the season-ending ace of aces tournament, said she first learned to play golf in high school, but didn't play consistently until 1997 after retiring from the Public School System.

In the closest to the pin contest, Tony Deleon Guerrero was without peer in hole No. 6, Das Krishnan won hole No. 12, while Nick Sablan ruled hole No. 15. The latter also hit the longest drives in holes No. 7 and 11.

The SGA 2022 March Ace of the Month Tournament is scheduled this Sunday, March 27, also at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Tee time is at 9:30am and show time is at 9am.

EAGLE

From Page 24

though as they continued to play hard, but Ocampo and Eagle Construction hit timely shots in the end to finally win their first game after five tries, while exacting their victims a fourth straight loss.

In the third game, *Saipan Tribune* senior reporter Ferdie Dela Torre converted a 3-pointer from the right flank in the dying seconds to lift MDC to a 62-59 win against first round tormentor DECM in the masters division.

Both teams were locked in a dogfight from the get-go with the opening quarter ending in a 12-all tie. DECM managed a 35-30 lead at the half before both teams were knotted at 44-44 again after three quarters of play. Before Dela Torre's heroics Fradel Sedillo fired 11 of his team-high 19 points in the fourth for MDC. DECM was paced by the 28 markers of Smokin' Joe Tabora. Both teams are now tied in the win-loss column at 3-3.

In the second game, Team Marianas bounced back from a no-show loss with a 96-66 thrashing of JTM in the open division. Chioni Dela Cruz shone all evening long for the CNMI National Men's Team pool with 26 points, while JTM was led by the game-high 28 points of Ryan Bayna. Team Marianas improved to 4-1, while JTM dropped to 3-3.

In games last Saturday, Blue Haus repeated against NAPA Auto, 82-76, to remain perfect at 5-0 in the first game. NAPA Auto went down to 4-2. MDC then nipped Eagle Construction, 92-89, in the second game. In the last game, 670 Gravity leveled its win-loss record to 3-3 following a 91-83 win over IT&E, which lost for the fourth time in five tries.

First Game

Eagle Construction 54 – Ocampo 11, Umali 10, Alegre 6, Sublemente 10, Evanz 5, Rabago 5, Pineda 4, J. Itaas 3.

Magalahi Eagles 38 – Odicta 12, Panes 9, Alvarez 5, Anicieto 4, Brillo 4, Cortez 2, Claveria 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-15, 26-21, 46-31, 54-38.

Second GameTeam

Marianas 96 – Dela Cruz 26, Castro 12, Santos 9, Aldan 9, Sablan 7, Satur 6, Naraja 5, Itaas 5, Augenbaugh 5, Deleon Guerrero 4. Brennan 2, Aranda 2, Villarin 2.

JTM 66 – Bayna 28, Ferrer 18, Rodrigo 7, Broncal 6, Dindo 4, Demonteverde 2, Dancel 1.

Scoring by quarters: 23-13, 41-32, 76-48, 92, 66.

Third Game

MDC 62 – Sedillo 19, Dela Torre 9, Catalla 8, Saplan 6, Calbone 6, Ranada 6, Lumabao 5, Manipon 3.

DECM 59 – Tabora 28, Baul 14, Joson 9, Ja. Gatdula 2, Jo. Gatdula 2, Pangelinan 2, Dongol 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-12, 30-35, 44-44, 62-59.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	45	27	.625	—
Boston	46	28	.622	—
Toronto	40	32	.556	5
Brooklyn	38	35	.521	7½
New York	31	42	.425	14½

Southeast Division

y-Miami	47	26	.644	—
Charlotte	37	36	.507	10
Atlanta	36	37	.493	11
Washington	30	41	.423	16
Orlando	20	54	.270	27½

Central Division

Milwaukee	45	27	.625	—
Chicago	42	30	.583	3
Cleveland	41	31	.569	4
Indiana	25	48	.342	20½
Detroit	20	53	.274	25½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	50	23	.685	—
Dallas	45	28	.616	5
New Orleans	30	42	.417	19½
San Antonio	29	44	.397	21
Houston	18	55	.247	32

Northwest Division

Utah	45	28	.616	—
Denver	43	30	.589	2
Minnesota	42	32	.568	3½
Portland	27	45	.375	17½
Oklahoma City	21	52	.288	24

Pacific Division

x-Phoenix	59	14	.808	—
Golden State	48	25	.658	11
L.A. Clippers	36	38	.486	23½
L.A. Lakers	31	42	.425	28
Sacramento	26	48	.351	33½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED

Ayton, Booker help Suns rally past trash-taking Timberwolves

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Middle school girls volleyball league kicks off

PAGE 23

Lucky Charms tops For The Luck of Volleyball

ALYSSA MAHIN
Lucky Charms' Chenny Lizama spikes the ball while teammate Toni Yamada looks on during last Saturday's For The Luck of Volleyball at the sand courts of Crowne Plaza Resort in Garapan.

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Toni Yamada and Chenny Lizama of Lucky Charms topped the women's division of the For The Luck of Volleyball last Saturday at the sand courts of Crowne Plaza Resort in Garapan.

Lucky Charms upset top seed Team Pika of Savannah Delos Santos and Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Somia Quan, 21-10, 21-16, in the winner-take-all finals.

Yamada and Lizama finished pool play with a 2-1 record, the same as Team Pika and No. 2 seed Special K's Kathy Winkfield and Kriszell Esteves but had a zero point differential. Team Pika was +24 and Special K was +20. Best of Earth's Fatima Monterubio and Fiona Bucalig was winless in the race-to-28 points single-elimination round.

In the crossover playoffs, Team Pika beat Best of Earth, 15-21 and 18-21, while Lucky Charms defeated Special K, 21-16, 19-21, 16-14.

Toni Yamada credited her familiarity with Lizama as one of the reasons they topped

See LUCKY on Page 23

Frances Sablan wins SGA monthly ace

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Frances Sablan won Saipan Golfers Association's 2022 February Ace of the Month Winners after shooting a net 61 last Feb. 13 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Sablan finished with a gross score of 91 after going 47 in the front nine and 44 in the back nine. She, however, was able to trim her score to 61 thanks to her 30 handicap.

Joe I. Sablan finished second with a net 66 built around a 91 gross and a 44 and 47 in the first nine and last nine holes, respectively. He sported a 25 handicap. Nick Sablan fired a net 70 to take third place and making it a Sablan sweep for February. The super senior golfer shot the day's lowest gross score at 77 after a 41 in the front nine and a superb 36 in the back nine.

See FRANCES on Page 23

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, 2022 January Ace Edward C. Sablan, February Ace Frances M. Sablan, guest Pete Rojas, and SGA member Tony Deleon Guerrero pose for a group photo during the monthly tournament last Feb. 13 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Eagle Construction finally notches 1st victory

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Eagle Construction won the battle of cellar dwellers after shooting down namesake Magalahi Eagles in their masters division game of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Seeing action in the first game, the erstwhile winless teams battled like there was no tomorrow in the first quarter with Magalahi Eagles even taking a 15-14 lead thanks to the 4 points of Ryan Odicta and 3 points of Alvin "Gen. Bato" Alvarez.

Coming to their senses in the second quarter, Eagle Construction did just enough to retake the lead, 26-21, at the half as sweet-shooting big man Alex Ocampo pumped in 5 points.

» **MDC wins with 3-pointer by Dela Torre**

Eagle Construction showed that it's dead-set in winning the game by playing 6'3" former semi-pro Ed Cosino and ageless wonder Elmer Pineda at the start of the second half. The longtime teammates ignited the team with their defense and playmaking and this led to a number of home run drives by Mike Umali, who scored all of his 10 points in the third. As a result, Eagle Construction entered the fourth and final quarter with a comfortable 46-31 lead.

Magalahi Eagles didn't quit

See EAGLE on Page 23

MARK RABAGO
Eagle Construction's Elmer Pineda drives against a Magalahi Eagles player in their masters division game of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.